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Rahul keeps silence on Mamata in Bengal

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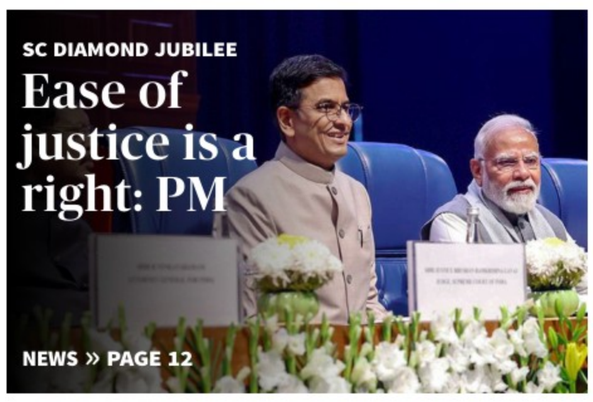

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India needs to re-calibrate its policy

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ENGLAND STAGES A COUP

Hartley spins a web around India batters

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Nitish switches sides yet again, takes oath as CM

JD(U) snaps ties with grand alliance in Bihar; two Deputy CMs from BJP and six Ministers sworn in; Nitish says he is acting in 'the interest of Bihar'; RJD says 'the game is not over yet'

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

Change of guard: Bihar Governor Rajendra Arlekar, newly sworn-in Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, and Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha at the Raj Bhavan on Sunday. PTI

Janata Dal (United) president Nitish Kumar took oath as Bihar Chief Minister for a record ninth time on Sunday, returning to the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance just 18 months after he left it, in his fifth switch in political loyalties since 2015. Six Ministers and two Deputy Chief Ministers, both from the BJP, were sworn in with him.

Mr. Kumar said his latest switch was "in the interest of Bihar". The BJP said that its renewed "alliance with the JD(U) happened for the development of Bihar". The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), with which Mr. Kumar has broken up again, said, "The game is not over yet", predicting the JD(U)'s demise as a party.

Since November 2005, Mr. Kumar has been making repeated political turnarounds to remain the Chief Minister of Bihar, apart from a brief hiatus after his party's poor performance in the 2014 Lok Sabha election.

"I took this decision [to join hands with the BJP again] in the interest of Bihar. I came where I was earlier, and had gone somewhere in between, but now got freedom from where I was. Nothing was being done there," he said about his latest switch. "Since things were not working well in the *mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance) and no work was being done from their [RJD] side on what JD(U) was doing; after listening to everyone, I decided to dissolve this government to form the NDA government," he told presspersons after tendering his resignation to Governor Rajendra Viswanath Arlekar.

Congratulating Mr. Kumar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wrote on X: "The NDA government formed in Bihar will leave no stone unturned for the development of the state and to fulfil the aspirations of its people. I congratulate Nitish Kumar ji as chief minister and Samrat Choudhary ji and Vijay Kumar Sinha ji on taking oath as Deputy chief ministers." He added: "I'm confident that this team will serve my family members of the state with full dedication."

Mr. Choudhary has been the BJP's State president since last year, while Mr. Sinha was the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly; both the new Deputy Chief Ministers have been sharp critics of Mr. Kumar while he was leading the *mahagatbandhan* government.

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NEARBY

5.61 lakh people visit Lalbagh flower show

BENGALURU
The bi-annual flower show at Lalbagh that was organised as part of the Republic Day celebrations ended on Sunday. The total number of visitors to the show has been estimated at 5.61 lakh. » Page 2

Reject BJP for its stand on Constitution: CM

BENGALURU
The political scene is heating up ahead of the Lok Sabha election, with the Congress on Sunday asking people to reject the BJP for its stand on the Constitution. » Page 4

Siddaramaiah regrets remark on President

BENGALURU
The episode of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah referring to President Droupadi Murmu in the singular drew sharp criticism though he later expressed regret over his remark. » Page 5

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 17

More violence in Imphal; man dead as bunker caves in

The Hindu Bureau
IMPHAL

45-year-old was among the village defence volunteers who faced gunfire and bomb attack

A 45-year-old man was killed in an accident in Manipur following an attack by an armed group, one of the three such incidents reported over 24 hours from the Imphal Valley since Saturday evening.

Local people said Warrekpam Kiran was killed when an under-construction bunker collapsed on him after he and other "village defence volunteers" of Santipur in Bishnupur district thwarted an attack by gunmen who had descended from Phuroi, a nearby hill.

Apart from bullets, a bomb hurled by the attackers had hit the bunker before it collapsed. Kiran's body was handed over to his family after an autopsy.

On Saturday evening, armed miscreants attacked Khurkhul village in Imphal West district. The police registered a case after the village volunteers managed to drive the attackers away.

The third incident was reported from Sanjenlok village in Imphal East district around 10 a.m. on Sunday.

The police said Kuki extremists came down from a nearby hillock and fired about 20 rounds in the village. No casualty was reported from either Khurkhul or Sanjenlok.

Meanwhile, contributions totalling ₹6.48 lakh were made from across the world for the families of eight people killed in Kumbi and Ningthoukhong in Bishnupur district on January 10 and 17.

Global initiative

The fundraising was an initiative of Imphal-based Ringo Pebam, U.S.-based Rajshree Keisham, New Delhi-based Bonet Adhikarimayum, Canada-based Dayananda Paonam, and West Bengal-based Vladimir Adityanath.

"The global contribution campaign was conducted from January 12 to 16," Mr. Pebam said.

The global team agreed that a portion of the contribution for the four Kumbi victims should be shared with the four Ningthoukhong victims, he said. More than 200 people have been killed and some 70,000 displaced since the ethnic conflict between Meiteis and the Kuki-Zomi tribe broke out on May 3, 2023.

Row over removal of saffron flag in Mandya dist.

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU/BENGALURU

Tension gripped Keregodu village in Mandya district on Sunday as local youth along with Opposition leaders protested the removal of a saffron flag with an image of Lord Hanuman on it from a 108-ft flagpole in the village by government authorities. The police had to resort to lathi-charge.

The saffron flag was replaced by the tricolour by authorities, citing rules that only national flag could be hoisted on government land.

A host of BJP and Janata Dal (S) leaders, including Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok and former MLA Suresh Gowda, who joined the protesters at Keregodu, were taken into custody by the police.

After his release, Mr. Ashok announced that the BJP and JD (S) would launch an agitation against the Congress government with a padayatra from Keregodu on Monday.

The incident witnessed a political slugfest between the government and the Opposition with the BJP terming it as an indication of the anti-Hindu mindset of the Congress government.

FULL REPORT » PAGE 4

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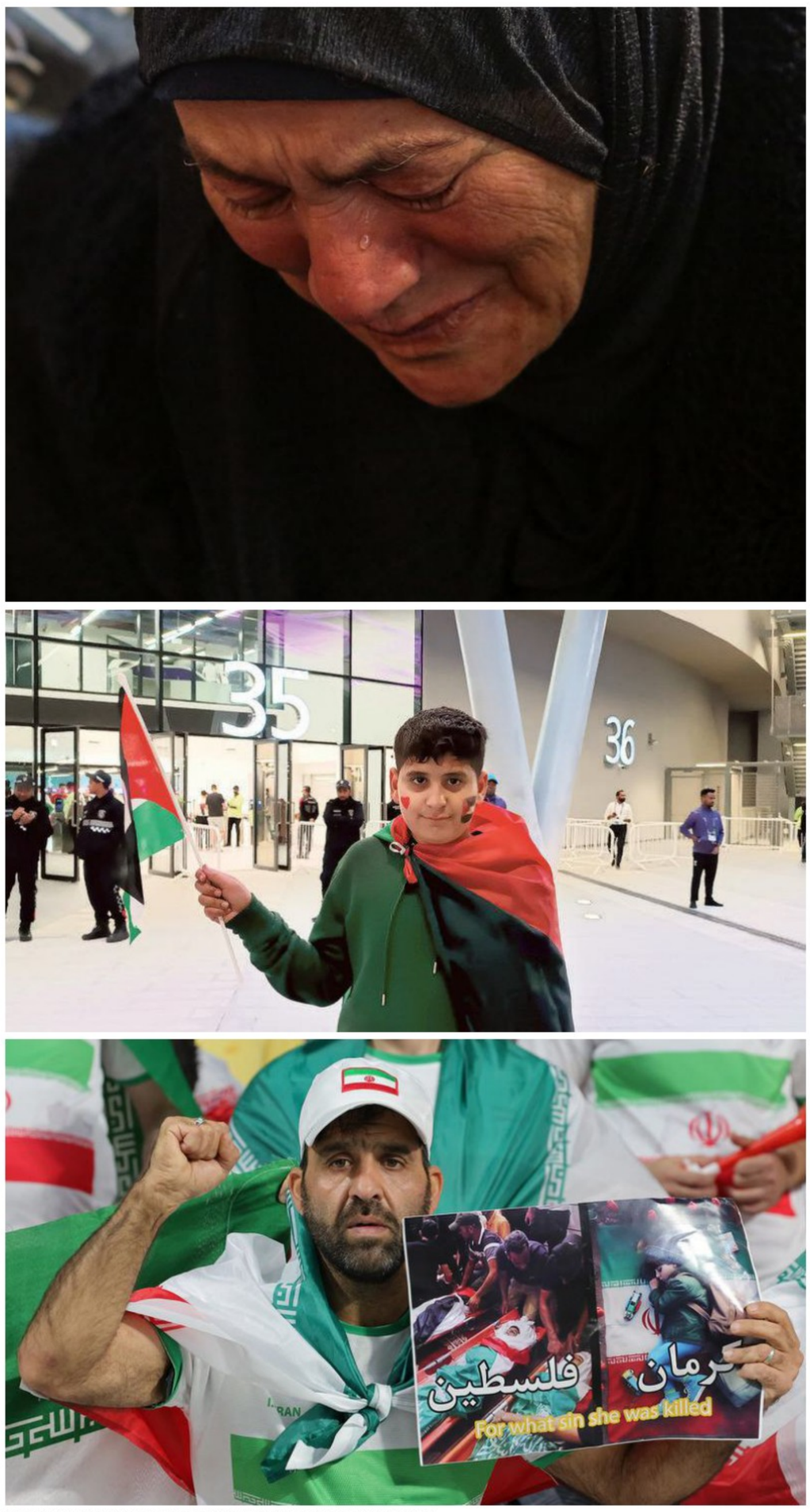
Palestine looks to wipe out tears through the beautiful game

The country ravaged by war has turned heads by qualifying for the round-of-16 in the AFC Asian Cup for the first time; the team has become such a big hit with the fans that even some of the supporters of Iran and the UAE sang and danced to its unofficial anthem



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: GETTY IMAGES, AFP AND NEELADRI BHATTACHARJEE

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
DOHA

The AFC Asian Cup 2023 in Qatar has brought the entire Arab world together. Songs from all around the gulf, beats of the Darbuka and the claps of hundreds ring around Souq Waqif every evening.

But another part of the Middle East lay silent, ravaged by war, the air, heavy with wails of mothers and widows of Palestine. Israel, according to Palestinian health officials, was storming into hospitals and, in certain cases, preventing injured people from receiving treatment.

For the ones who survive, 'catastrophic hunger' awaits, according to the United Nations.

Thousands of miles away from home, members of its football team can only pray and spread the need for peace in Palestine through football.

"We are scared for them. They are among the victims, the people of my house. But Inshallah, we will see good times soon and save the people," said Mohammed Saleh *(right, in pic)*, a defender of the Palestinian national team.

Israel and Hamas have been at war for close to four months now. According to Oxfam, Palestinians are being killed at an average rate of 250 people a day, which is more than the daily death toll of any other major conflict in the 21st century.

Gaza, my love

Saleh is one of the few members of the team from Gaza, the area worst affected by the war between Hamas and Israel, which has already claimed over 25,000 lives.

In December last year, Yarmouk Stadium, where Saleh learnt to play football as a toddler, was razed by the Israeli army. What remained was an open field, with hundreds of men and a few children tied and stripped to their underwear.

"I am from Gaza, in Rimal. My family is from there. A few days ago, they bombed my uncle's house and my cousins were injured. They (my family) then moved to my friend's house, and then to my mother's house and now fortunately, they are in the south now," Saleh said.

"May God save them and take them into his arms so that we can be victorious."

"My cousins were killed today, like 30 minutes ago," Mahmoud Wadi, another Palestine international, told *Al Jazeera* before the first game. "It's difficult to say how I feel right now. But we have to do something for the people back home."

The prayers and determination of players finally bore fruit on January 23 when the Lions of Canaan thrashed Hong Kong to register their first-ever win in the tournament and also qualified for the round of 16 for the first time.

Oday Dabbagh's brace and Zaid Qunbar's goal secured a 3-0 win for Palestine in its third and last group-stage match at the Abdullah bin Khalifa Stadium.

Saleh, who played every minute of that game, could not hold back his emotions.

As his teammates hugged each other to celebrate, he went down on his knees, weeping profusely and then stood up to show a writing on his hand that read "110", the number of days Gaza has been at war.

"When I hear about the war, I remember all the moments when I was in Gaza. Even when the war was over, 30 years ago, all the 30 years that I spent in Gaza," he told reporters with his voice breaking.

"Everyone needs freedom, everyone has a human right. We will continue to support the Palestinian army, and we will continue to support the Palestinians. We will pray for the next generation, Inshallah, I hope the schools re-open soon."

Pursuit of peace

In 1993, Fuad Muzurovic's FK Sarajevo escaped snipers and border patrol to play friendlies around the world, fighting for peace during the Bosnian war.

The team played 54 matches in 17 countries to spread awareness around the world about the war. Instead of taking up arms, this was their way of fighting, replying to guns and bullets with love for the beautiful game.

"This is your way of fighting. This is the best way to present your young state to the world," the then-Iranian president Akbar Rafsanjani had said.

Palestine looks to tread the same path. And interestingly, its first opponent in the Asian Cup was also Iran. Though the team lost its first game 1-4, off the field, Iranian fans stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Palestine.

So much so that they sang and danced to *Dammi Falastini*, the unofficial anthem of Palestine, during the match, at the Education City Stadium. Before kick-off, a packed stadium maintained a minute of silence, along with the players of both teams as the eyes of some Palestinian players swelled up.

And there were thousands with the same emotion even in their second game, against the United Arab Emirates. Palestine drew that match 1-1, which felt like a win for the fans and the players.

"I am from Qatar but my parents are from Palestine," an 11-year-old kid told *Sportstar* outside the stadium, "I feel the war should end because why should people die like that?"

The host, too, offered a shoulder to Palestine during the opening ceremony. Qatar's captain Hassan Al-Haydos asked Palestine skipper Musab Al-Battat to take the oath. Before taking it, Al-Battat talked of peace as 80,000 people watched him live at the Lusail Stadium.

A win for the people

Football for Palestine took a stop immediately after the war began in October last year. It withdrew from the King's Cup and was forced to play its FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifiers away from home, in Kuwait.

Though it did not win any of its matches there, the determination to play for the country's people in times of war inspired the boys to a historic win in the AFC Asian Cup. And today, on January 29, it faces defending champion Qatar in the knockouts, at the Al Bayt Stadium.

"The dressing room is always intense. I would say, it always wants to win. And the main reason is not for us, it's for Palestine, for the sake of people at home, for people who have passed away, people who've lost their homes," Rashid Mohammed, a defensive midfielder, told *Sportstar*.

"This is what we're here for. We play for them."

Palestine remembers Sabiha Abu Rahman, a doting mother who had created a garden out of grenade shells to find hope in life after her son was executed by Israeli soldiers.

Eleven years later, its national team looks to inspire hope through its performance at the Asian Cup.

"I want to play football for them, for our people, for our food and the football industry. I want to play for Yarmouk, for our family and friends. God is with us. (To) our beloved, we are one. We are one," said Saleh with a smile before boarding the team.

THE GIST

- The Palestinians hope to motivate the people through football and remain optimistic about the future despite the turbulent times
- They tasted their first-ever success in the tournament with a 3-0 win over Hong Kong in their final group stage to secure qualification
- Qatar, in a laudable gesture, allowed the Palestinian skipper to take the oath during the opening ceremony

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F BG-BGE

Risk perception of cannabis use is low among college students, finds study

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A file photo of a cannabis plant.

A study by researchers from NIMHANS has found that risk perception about cannabis use among college students surveyed in Bengaluru is very low.

The study aimed at assessing students' knowledge, attitude, and expectancies towards the use of cannabis was published in the *Indian Journal of Psychological Medicine* this month.

The rising use of cannabis products has become a global concern. According to the WHO, it has become more closely linked to youth culture, with the age of initiation being usually lower than that for other drugs. Cannabis is not legal in India.

The new study, led by Kannan K. and Prasanthi Nattala from the Department of Nursing at NIMHANS, assessed the decreased perception of risks associated with the use of cannabis, positive expectancies from use, and perceived benefits.

"The concerns surrounding cannabis use are different from other psychoactive drugs. More importantly, the use of cannabis has been the subject of debate regarding safety risks versus benefits. Several States in the U.S have legalised cannabis use for medical and recreational purposes, with consequent prevention, management, and policy issues," Dr. Nattala told *The Hindu*.

In India, cannabis (known in the vernacular as ganja or bhang) holds cultural significance because of its use during festivals and rituals. Cannabis use rates ranging from 6.8% to 36% have been reported among college students in India.

Prior studies among college students in India have reported decreased perceived risk or ambivalence about harm from cannabis use. The cross-sectional survey of 405 undergraduate and postgraduate college students from three private and two government colleges in South Bengaluru revealed that 10% reported past three-month cannabis use, with 1% reporting daily use.

"Nearly 30% were unaware that cannabis can affect a person's ability to drive safely or that it can affect executive functions, including academic performance," said Mr. Kannan.

"Over one-third was unaware of the current legal status of cannabis in India. Overall, 36%, 25%, and 17%, respectively, said that cannabis use is safe when used for recreational purposes, cannabis should be legalised as it helps to relieve stress, and use among youngsters should be acceptable in society as it is part of college life," he explained.

According to the study, users were significantly older (median age 21) and belonged to families with higher monthly income. Use was significantly higher among males and postgraduate students.

Another author Meena K.S., Professor and Head of the Department of Mental Health Education at NIMHANS, said the findings have several critical implications for planning preventive educational strategies for students.

"This is a highly vulnerable group, given that they are going through a turbulent development stage of life, coupled with various academic and other challenges," she said.

At 5.61 lakh, January flower show sees highest-ever footfall

Republic Day saw the largest-ever turnout with around 95,000 people visiting the show and the organisers said the total collection was ₹258.9 lakh; this year, the flower show was centred around social reformer Basaveshwara

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 10-day bi-annual flower show at Lalbagh that was organised as part of the Republic Day celebrations ended on Sunday, with over 75,000 people turning up to experience the visual treat.

The total number of visitors to the show has been estimated at 5.61 lakh. With a total collection of ₹258.9 lakh, this January's show had the highest-ever footfall.

The flower show this year was centred around Basaveshwara, the 12th century social reformer. Republic Day saw the highest-ever footfall with around 95,000 people visiting the show.

This year, the display of floral sculptures of the life, the philosophy, and the companions of Basaveshwara was inside the botanical garden' Glass House. The Horticulture Department placed boards informing visitors about the teachings of Basaveshwara.

There were also floral sculptures depicting Anubhava Mantapa, believed to be the first parliament. The replica of the mantapa was made using roses and chrysanthemums.

Besides, this show also focused on other leading personalities of Vachana Sahitya, namely, Allama Prabhu, Akka Mahadevi. The four wings of the Glass House were filled with flower bed displays with gerberas, zinnias, chrysanthemums, and geraniums.

Kusuma G., Deputy Director, Horticulture Department, Lalbagh, talking to *The Hindu*, said the department was overwhelmed by the response.

"The 5.61-lakh footfall included VIPs, schoolchildren, guests, and others," she said, adding that records show that the first bi-annual flower show commenced in 1912, while the earliest show dates back to 1870.

The 10-day bi-annual flower show at Lalbagh organised as part of the Republic Day celebrations ended on Sunday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JAN. 29		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:19
RISE	21:16	SET 09:08
TUESDAY, JAN. 30		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:19
RISE	22:00	SET 09:42
WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:20
RISE	22:45	SET 10:15

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	30	19
Bengaluru	29	16

Bengaluru Today
30°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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Graduation day at Bishop Cotton Girls' School

Students at the graduation ceremony on Saturday.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Graduation day was celebrated on Saturday at Bishop Cotton Girls' School with the theme "Destined to make a difference".

The ceremony commenced with the procession of graduating students followed by the school song. Principal Lavanya Mithran delivered the welcome address.

G. Parameshwara, Home Minister, in his valedictory address said women have the power to change the world.

Disability is not in people but in the system: Gita Balakrishnan

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

It was raining when architect Gita Balakrishnan began traversing the 300-odd km between Chennai and Bengaluru on January 7, seeking to raise awareness about universal architectural design and accessibility.

On the second day of her walk, she noticed six visually-challenged girls walking in a line, trying to negotiate the potholes and puddles on a Chennai road.

"I was thinking to myself that if I found it difficult, what a challenge it must be for these girls," said the 55-year-old at a closing ceremony to mark the end of this walk, held at the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP), Bengaluru, on Sunday.

"It was almost like a sign reminding me that this is what I was walking for."

This walk is the fourth one that Ms. Balakrishnan has undergone to spread a message under the 'Walk for Arcause' initiative of the Ethos Foundation, of which she is the founder-trustee.

She has also previously undertaken a 98.8-kilometre trek from Konark to Bhubaneswar, a 1,700-kilometre journey from Kolkata to New Delhi, and a 306-kilometre walk from Kolkata to Dhaka, something she spoke about in brief at the session.

"I had some fantastic experiences," she recalled at the MAP event, which followed her last lap of the journey – the 5-km stretch between the Spastics Society of Karnataka, Indiranagar, and Cubbon Park, where a commemorative walk was held.

The walk was followed by a session with Rama Krishnamachari, the accessibility auditor and consultant at MAP, who took participants on a tour of the premises, pointing out the details that made the space an inclusive one.

At the closing ceremony, which followed these other sessions, Ms. Balakrishnan also shared anecdotes and experiences gleaned from this most recent walking experience.

"Disability is not in people but in the system, which does not allow opportunity and spaces," said Ms. Balakrishnan, who has collaborated with Mphasis (F1 Foundation) and the AVAS Trust for 'Walk for Arcause 4.0'.

"Are we designing spaces fairly for everyone ...(it) is something we need to ask ourselves," she said, indicating that following a one-size-fits-all approach in design can be deeply problematic.

"Inclusivity is no longer an add-on," Ms. Balakrishnan remarked.

READER'S MAIL

Maintain play equipment at parks

Sir, – Most of the city's public parks have a distinct enclosure for children, with a variety of play equipment. However, a majority of such equipment is not properly maintained and requires periodic repairs and renewals. Broken swings, gaping holes in slides, non-functioning, cut, and exposed metal objects are all common problems in such play spaces, where unwary children are constantly vulnerable to injuries. While the fixtures are perpetually covered in grime and rust, the ground is uneven and littered with sharp-edged pebbles. During rains, water collects at the bottom of the slides, rendering them unusable for days together. Given that these are the only much-needed open spaces for children to have fun, the BBMP should make specific allowances for the daily upkeep and prompt and regular maintenance. When necessary, all broken or obsolete equipment should be replaced. A board should also be affixed at each park to provide maintenance-related information to users. Also, the facilities need to be kept open for extended hours on weekends and holidays.

Kamal Laddha,
Bengaluru

Readers can email to letters.bangalore @thehindu.co.in

'Global buyers taking note of Karnataka's prowess in AVGC'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Year after year, we see the number of these customers who outsource their projects to various content providers in the city or wanting to buy original content from local developers in Karnataka on the rise.

ASHISH KULKARNI,
Chairman of FICCI AVGC Forum

Bengaluru is all set to ride a huge wave in the animation, visual effects, gaming and comics (AVGC) and XR (augmented reality, virtual reality, mixed reality, and everything in between) segment, as Karnataka's consistent efforts in building and developing this industry have already captured the serious attention of global buyers, said Ashish Kulkarni, chairman of FICCI AVGC Forum and also founder and former chairman of ABAI, the industry's apex body.

"Bengaluru is already a top AVGC content destination for many global players. Year after year, we see the number of these customers who outsource their projects to various content providers in the city or wanting to buy original content from local developers in Karnataka on the rise," Mr. Kulkani told *The Hindu*.

Karnataka's annual AVGC-XR exposition, GAFX, which was originally started as an animation fest by ABAI years ago, has now become one of the "must visit"' events globally.

Producers, production houses, studios and film companies from Europe and North America, industry experts and customers started blocking their annual calendar in advance to attend this event, Mr. Kulkarni observed, highlighting the attention Bengaluru and Karnataka have been capturing with diverse AVGC-XR offerings.

Mr. Kulkarni said, "In 2000, when I came to Bengaluru and started Jaaduworks, the city did not have a single animation/ VFX studio and I had to bring all artists from outside. Today, the city has close to 500 studios, AVGC-XR firms, and game developers, surrounded by a solid ecosystem and consistently supported by the State government."

According to him, GAFX features a unique pitching session by various local content creators, and these sessions have been a great attraction for global buyers.

"This edition will see a large number of unique Indian IPs pitching in front of over 10 international buyers. This clearly shows the global community has started taking Bengaluru and Karnataka seriously," Mr. Kulkarni said.

The three-day GAFX 2024, which will be inaugurated by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, on Monday will have high-quality participation from storytellers, animators, graphic designers, cartoonists, artists, sculptors, sketching artists, and XR (extended reality) experts in addition to game-makers and studios holding Indian IPs and industry experts and buyers.

This edition will have an increased focus on talent creation for gaming as the State is rightly poised for a quantum growth in the sector, said Priyank Kharge, IT and BT Minister.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to general public that **Mr. M. S. Murali,** Aged about 50 years, S/o. Late Shamraj, Residing at #77, 2nd Main, Milk Colony, near Ganesha Temple, Malleshwaram West Bangalore 560 055, has lost the original document pertaining to the property bearing Site No.77, measuring East to West 45 feet and North to South 30 feet along with Residential building, formed by Bangalore Development Authority, situated at 2nd Main, Milk Colony, Near Ganesha Temple, Malleshwaram West Bangalore 560 055, presently comes under the limits of BBMP, Bangalore, while travelling to home from Xerox shop, Near Milk Colony. The following is the list of original documents lost:
i. Allotment Letter.
ii. Possession Certificate
Mr. M. S. Murali has sworn to an affidavit dated 27.01.2024 before the notary and also has filed a complaint before the Bangalore City Police Station, Bangalore, on 12.01.2024, that effect.
If any person or individual come across the above said document, please handover the same to **Mr. M. S. Murali.**

M.V.J. Law Chamber,
52, 4th Cross, Ganesha Block, Mahalakshmi Layout, Bangalore-560086
Mobile No. : 9538305787
email : mvjslawchambers@gmail.com

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REAL ESTATE

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TENDERS

Oushadhi
The Pharmaceutical Corporation (I.M.) Kerala Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
Kuttanellur, Thrissur-14.
Ph: 0487- 2459807, 2459842
E-TENDER NOTICE
P2/88/2023-24 29.01.2024
E-tenders are invited from eligible bidders for the Supply of following Machines. **(1)** 10gm-50gm Pouch Packing Machine-Fine Powder. **(2)** Automated Pans (8 nos.). Last Date **12.02.2024**.You can download tender documents from **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**. For more details visit **www.oushadhi.org** or contact Purchase Department.
(Sd/-) Managing Director

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER- 2nd Call
(Through KPP portal only)
BWSSB invites Tenders from eligible contractors for the following Works:
Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri-O&M), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-09.

Division	IFT Number	Amount Put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & Time for submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
Kaveri (O&M-2)	BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/2417/2023-24 Dt: 24/01/2024	Rs.36.82 Lakhs / Rs.74,000/-	12-02-2024 upto 4.00 p.m.	13-02-2024 after 4.00 p.m.

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO3251/23-24 **Executive Engineer (Kaveri-O&M)-2.**

FORM A
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(Regulation 14 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Voluntary Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2017)
For the attention of the STAKEHOLDERS OF VERA SECURITY INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

1	NAME OF CORPORATE PERSON	VERA SECURITY INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED
2	DATE OF INCORPORATION OF CORPORATE PERSON	14/01/2015
3	AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH CORPORATE PERSON IS INCORPORATED / REGISTERED	RoC-Bangalore
4	CORPORATE IDENTITY NUMBER / LIMITED LIABILITY IDENTITY NUMBER OF CORPORATE PERSON	U72900KA2015FTC078322
5	ADDRESS OF THE REGISTERED OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE (IF ANY) OF CORPORATE PERSON	Ground Floor, Indiqube Hexa, Site No.191 and 218/A 9th Main Road, Sector 6, HSR Layout, Bangalore, Karnataka, India- 560102
6	LIQUIDATION COMMENCEMENT DATE OF CORPORATE PERSON	25/01/2024
7	NAME, ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND THE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF THE LIQUIDATOR, AUTHORISATION FOR ASSIGNMENT (AFA) Validity	CS THIRUPAL GORIGE NO. 87, 2ND FLOOR, 21ST CROSS, 7TH MAIN, N S. PALYA, BTM 2ND STAGE, BANGALORE-560076, KARNATAKA, INDIA CELL +91 94483 84064, LL +080 7963 4233 EMAIL: GTHIRUPAL@GMAIL.COM IP REGISTRATION NO. IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00016/2016-17/10030 AFA valid upto 21.05.2024
8	LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF CLAIMS	24/02/2024

Notice is hereby given that **Vera Security India Private Limited** has commenced voluntary liquidation on 25/01/2024.
The stakeholders of **Vera Security India Private Limited** are hereby called upon to submit a proof of their claims, on or before 24/02/2024 to the liquidator at the address mentioned against item 7.
The financial creditors shall submit their proof of claims by electronic means only. All other stakeholders may submit the proof of claims in person, by post or by electronic means.
Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.
Date : 25/01/2024
Place : Bangalore
Sd/-
Thirupal Gorige
Liquidator

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SEE/Tr(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/T-64/23-24/6814-17 Date:23.01.2024
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)
Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Tender for the following work.
1) Tender No:KPTCL/2023-24/SS/ Work_Indent548.
Bid Enquiry No.:KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/2023-24/171 Dtd. 19.01.2024 for **Enhancement** of 6.3 MVA, 66/11Kv Power Transformer by 12.5MVA 66/11Kv Power Transformer at 66/11kV Sub-station, **Hampasagara** in HB Halli Taluk, Vijayanagara District including supply of equipments / materials, erection, testing & commissioning on PTK basis (Major material Power Transformer and 11kV Switchgears will be supplied by KPTCL).
2) Tender No: KPTCL/2023-24/SS/ Work_Indent549.
Bid Enquiry No: SEE/WMC/MRB/AEE-1/2023-24/172 Dt. 19.01.2024 for **Replacing** of 1X8 MVA, 66/11Kv Power Transformer by 1X20MVA 66/11Kv Power Transformer at **Punabhagatta 66/11kV** Sub-station in Harapanahalli Taluk, Vijayanagar District. Including supply of equipments / materials, erection, testing and commissioning on PTK basis (Major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL).
3) Tender No:KPTCL/2023/24/SS/ Work_Indent550.
Bid Enquiry No.:KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/2023-24/173 Dtd. 19.01.2024 for **Enhancement** of 2X8 MVA, 66/11Kv Power Transformer by 2x12.5MVA 66/11Kv Power Transformer at **66/11Kv Sub-station, Sovenahalli** in Huvina Hadagali Taluk, Vijayanagara District including supply of equipments / materials, erection testing & commissioning on PTK basis (major material Power Transformer and 11kV Switchgears will be supplied by KPTCL).
4)Tender No:KPTCL/2023-24/SS/ Work_Indent552.
Bid Enquiry No.:KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/2023-24/174 Dtd. 19.01.2024. for **Enhancement** of 1X10MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer by 1X20MVA, 110/11kV Power Transformer along with additional switchgear at **110/33/11kV Kavithal Sub-station** in Manvi Taluk and Raichur District including supply of equipments / materials, erection (including civil works), testing and commissioning on PTK basis (major materials such as Power Transformer, 11kV Switchgear will be supplied by KPTCL).
5) Tender No:KPTCL/2023-24/SS/ Work_Indent563.
Bid Enquiry No.:KPTCL/SEE/Tr.(W&M)C/MRB/EE(O)/AEE-1/2023-24/175 Dtd. 20.01.2024 for Construction of 110kV LILO line to **110kV Mukkunda** Sub-station by utilizing 110kV DC towers from the tapping point of existing **110kV Munirabad-2 line** for a distance of 12.62 kms along with construction of terminal bay at 110/11kV Mukkunda Sub-station in Sindhanur Taluk, Raichur District on Total Turn Key Basis".
Tenders will be received through KPP Portal only. The detailed notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or directly logging on to website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **30.01.2024 at 11:00 Hrs** details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Munirabad-583 233
Tele-Fax: 08539-270094

The genomic revolution promises to transform cancer care

At the heart of this transformation is whole-genome sequencing, a tool that can sequence a person's DNA in its entirety in a single test. The sequencing and in-depth analysis don't treat the genome in isolation; instead, they happen together with the sequence of the genome obtained from cancerous tissue or a tumour

Sridhar Sivasubbu
Vinod Scaria

Cancer has emerged as a major public health concern worldwide with about 20 million new patients being added every year. The World Health Organization has estimated the cancer burden will increase by almost 60% over the next decade, potentially rendering it the second major cause of death. India alone adds approximately 1.4 million new cancer cases every year, with almost 1 in 1,000 Indians being diagnosed annually, per the National Cancer Registry.

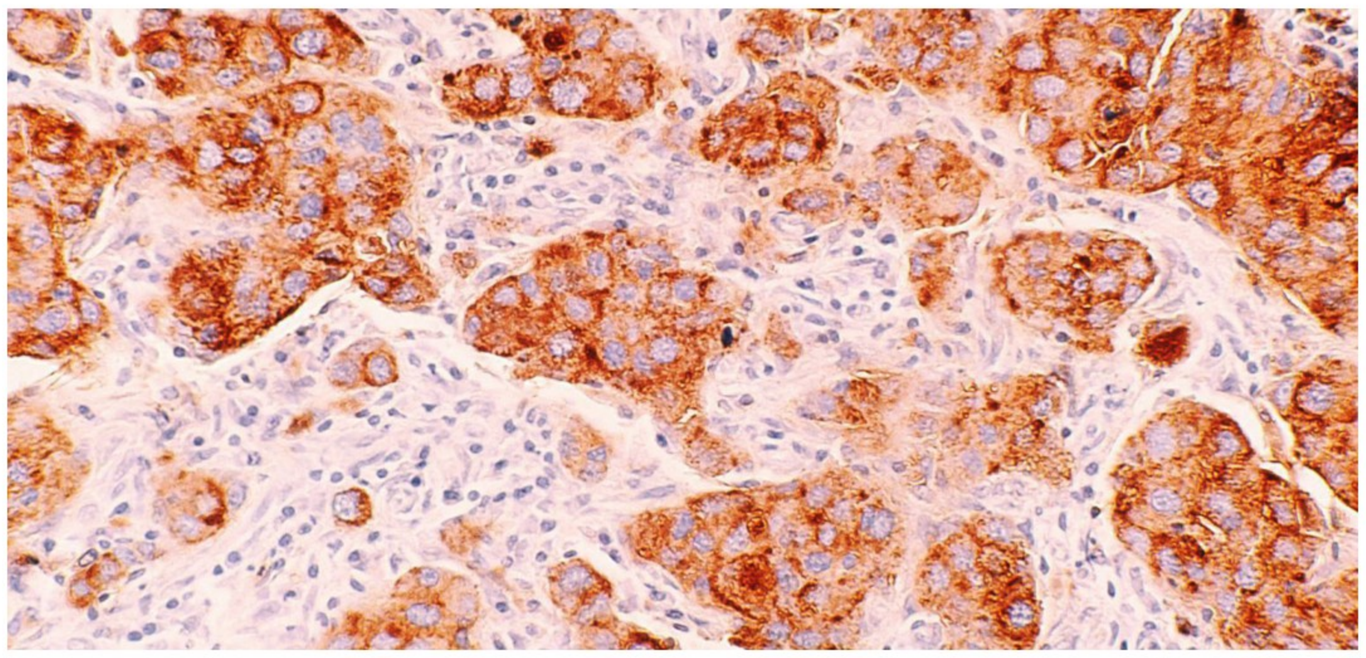
Cancer is a disease of the genome. It is caused by changes in genes that cause some cells to divide in an uncontrolled way. These changes can be inherited or acquired. Inherited genetic variants form the basis of many hereditary cancers, including breast and ovarian cancer. Advancements in genomic technologies in the past couple of decades, including global initiatives such as the Cancer Genome Atlas, have provided a shot in the arm to understand the molecular underpinnings of cancer, which, in turn, have yielded a new generation of therapies that target molecular defects.

Precision oncology

Such therapies are called precision oncology therapies. Their eligibility in a given setting is determined by molecular tests. Of the 200-odd therapies the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved, almost a third have a DNA-based test as biomarker. And while scientists are discovering new biomarkers for cancers, the focus of late has been shifting to understand how genomic tests could become the mainstay of cancer treatment in clinical settings.

As part of the U.K.'s ongoing '100,000 Genome Program', a study of over 13,800 cancer patients, published last week, suggested cancer genomics could indeed transform cancer care. The programme reportedly demonstrated that genome sequencing integrated with routine clinical data could render cancer treatments more customisable. The implications of this study extend far beyond the boundaries of current practice of medicine, and mark a leap forward in the era of precision oncology.

At the heart of this transformation lies whole-genome sequencing, a tool that can sequence a person's DNA in its entirety - all 3.2 billion nucleotides - in a single comprehensive test. The sequencing and in-depth analysis do not treat the genome (derived from the blood) in isolation; instead, they happen together with the sequence of the genome obtained from cancerous tissue or a tumour.



A microscopic image of breast cancer cells obtained at the U.S. National Cancer Institute. Cancer is a disease of the genome, and certain inherited variants of genes form the basis of hereditary cancers such as breast cancer. NCI/UNSPLASH

Insights into cancer

In the U.K.-wide study, researchers obtained, sequenced, and analysed the genomes of people with different types of cancers; the genomes came from blood and tumour tissues. Their analysis revealed details that the researchers have said can be applied in clinical settings to guide treatment strategies for cancer patients.

Notably, according to the study, a higher fraction of individuals diagnosed with brain tumours as well as those dealing with bowel or lung cancers had distinct DNA changes that could become new targets for therapy. The study also provided novel insights that could reshape even our understanding of challenging conditions such as ovarian cancers and sarcomas.

For example, approximately 10% of sarcomas (rare cancers of the bone and soft tissue) exhibited genetic changes that could impact treatment decisions. The researchers also identified a corresponding proportion of ovarian cancers as being potentially inherited.

Consequences of genomic medicine

The impetus behind this study aligns with the vision of England's public health system. The National Health Service (NHS), in particular, has been keen on understanding how genomic medicine can be harnessed to enhance cancer care. The study also signifies the realisation of the promise of precision medicine, envisioned almost a decade ago with the launch of the population-scale '100,000 Genomes Project', in which patients were recruited as part of a larger genomics initiative whose focus was as much cancer as rare genetic diseases.

> India adds approximately 1.4 million new cancer cases every year, with almost 1 in 1,000 Indians being diagnosed annually

The lessons learned from this large study are already finding real-world application in some parts of the U.K. Hospital trusts in East Midlands are incorporating insights from preemptive genome-sequencing and referring individuals with certain genetic mutations to clinical trials for certain therapies or steering clear of treatments or modifying the dosages of therapies that might potentially result in adverse side-effects. This underscores the immediate impact of groundbreaking genomics research: on implementing patient care in clinical settings.

But amid the optimism surrounding this breakthrough study, many researchers have also advised caution and urged a more nuanced perspective on the consequences of genomic medicine. One crucial consideration is the use of information gleaned from whole-genome sequencing in practice - especially in a scenario where, say, a particularly harmful genetic change has been identified in an individual but for which there are no treatments available.

Shifts in clinical testing

Fortunately, advances in precision oncology therapies are rapidly closing this gap. Research is moving towards a more comprehensive understanding of tumours, one that integrates genomics, along with studies on proteins and metabolites in the body - also known as 'multi-omics'. At the same time, it is gaining wider application in identifying newer molecular subtypes of cancer with implications for cancer progression and treatment. However, integrating these new insights into clinical care will require a paradigm shift in clinical testing as it exists.

In sum, while the new study is a milestone in genomics and genomic medicine, we can see why it will also spark a broader conversation on the nuances of integrating genomics and genomics-guided treatments into the standard protocols of cancer care. As lessons from genomics research into oncology continue to unfold, it opens up new horizons, opportunities and - unmistakably - challenges. Research from such studies will lay the foundation for a future where genomics insights and evidence can seamlessly inform clinical decision-making on the population-scale.

(The authors are senior consultants at Vishwanath Cancer Care Foundation and adjunct professors at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. All opinions expressed here are personal.)

THE GIST

- Advancements in genomic technologies have improved our understanding of the molecular underpinnings of cancer, which in turn have yielded a new generation of therapies that target molecular defects
- Of the 200-odd therapies the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved, almost a third have a DNA-based test as a biomarker. And while scientists are discovering new biomarkers for cancers, the focus of late has been shifting to understanding how genomic tests could become the mainstay of cancer treatment in clinical settings
- In the U.K. researchers sequenced and analysed the genomes of people with different types of cancers; the genomes came from blood and tumour tissues. Their analysis revealed details that the researchers have said can be applied in clinical settings to guide treatment strategies for cancer patients

BIG SHOT

This image provided by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and Doshisha University shows an image taken by a Lunar Excursion Vehicle 2 – one of two small rovers released by JAXA's Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) just as it descended on the lunar surface on January 19. SLIM's successful landing made Japan the fifth country to have soft-landed a robotic instrument on the moon. AP

WHAT IS IT?

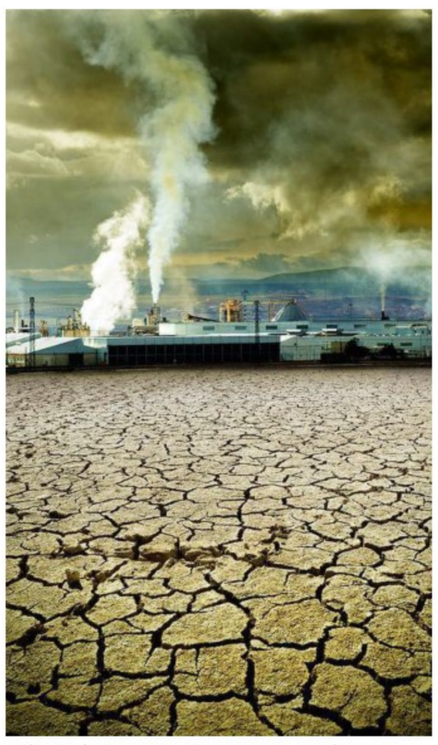
Acid rain has its origins in fossil fuels

Vasudevan Mukunth

Acid rain is rain that is acidic. When fossil fuels that contain sulphur are combusted, their emissions include sulphur dioxide (SO_2). When such combustion happens at a higher temperature, like inside the engine of a car, the combustion products also include nitrogen oxide and nitrogen dioxide (collectively called NO_x). Both SO_2 and NO_x are also produced naturally, such as when volcanoes erupt or when lightning passes through the atmosphere, but in and around cities, their principal source is the use of fossil fuels for transport and power generation.

Once SO2 and NOx rise into the air, they react with water and oxygen molecules to produce sulphuric acid (H_2SO_4) and nitric acid (HNO3), both of which are corrosive. When these molecules dissolve in water droplets and the droplets precipitate, we have acid rain, acid snow, and even acid fog. The typical pH of acid rain is around 4.2-4.4. When acid rain flows into rivers and lakes, it can render the water inhospitable to some species; in soil, it destroys some bacteria. These effects can in turn adversely affect forests and other large ecosystems in complex ways.

To mitigate these effects, coal power plants have been able to reduce the SO, content in their atmospheric emissions by more than 90% using flue-gas desulphurisation. Many governments around the world have also been working together to minimise acid rain; an example in Asia is the Acid Deposition Monitoring Network in East Asia (EANET).



Industrial emissions are a major contributor to acid rain. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

City traffic police to launch Telegram-based chatbot for public to report accidents

While the public can eventually also report on road conditions through the bot, the initial priority will be reporting accidents to enhance the emergency medical care during the golden hour

A file photo of an accident site in Bengaluru. The first hour after the accident is referred to as the golden hour, as emergency care is critical to victims during that time.

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

In case of an accident, the first hour after the trauma is referred to as the golden hour as emergency care is critical to the victims during that time. In order to enhance this emergency medical care, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) is working on developing a chatbot where the public can report accidents.

The BTP already has a Telegram-based mobile application (Field Officer BOT), which is used by field officers for updates about road conditions like accidents, tree falls, flooding, and even traffic congestion.

The photos taken and uploaded on the mobile application automatically goes to the back end, which then helps in ASTraM (Actionable Intelligence for Sustainable Traffic Management), an initiative of the BTP.

"This helps us disseminate information on X for the public," said M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Bengaluru.

Speaking about the chatbot for the public, he told *The Hindu*, "We are working on a similar bot for the public to upload photos of accidents. They can upload it with the location and landmark which will help our officers reach there faster. Instead of uploading it on social media, they can do it on this platform so that we get to know about it immediately."

While the public can eventually also report on road conditions through the bot, the initial priority would be reporting accidents. "This is to improve emergency medical care," Mr. Anucheth said.

> They [the public] can upload it with the location and landmark which will help our officers reach there faster. Instead of uploading it on social media, they can do it on this platform so that we get to know about it immediately.
>
> **M.N. ANUCHETH,** Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Bengaluru

The bot will be available on Telegram as there is no provision yet to use WhatsApp for government services. The bot is expected to be functional shortly.

BTP Public Eye

The traffic police currently have an app called BTP Public Eye, which is also available on their website and on X, where the public can report traffic violations by uploading the vehicle number, the time, the location, and a picture of the violation. The initiative is widely popular, especially on X.

Two motorists killed in road accidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 28-year-old scooterist was killed when a lorry knocked him down near NICE road bridge on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Arun Kumar, an accountant at a private firm.

According to the police, he was returning home when the lorry, allegedly being driven in a rash manner, knocked down his scooter. Arun Kumar lost balance and came under the lorry, and died on the spot, added the police.

The K.S. Layout traffic police arrested the driver and seized the lorry.

Another accident

In an other incident, a 32-year-old motorcycle driver was killed when a goods vehicle knocked him down in Electronics City on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Sujit S., a native of Bihar working as a construction labourer.

According to the police, he was returning home from work.

The Electronics City police have registered a case of death due to negligence against the driver for further investigation.

Five held on charge of killing friend

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Subramanyapura police arrested a gang of five people who allegedly killed their friend in a drunken brawl recently.

According to the police, the accused, identified as Chandrashekhar, Pritham, Yashwanth, Prashant, and Lankesh, were working as cab drivers and private firm employees.

According to the police, the victim, Darshan, had got money from his family to buy groceries, but he went along with the accused to a local bar.

After getting drunk, the accused allegedly started to fight, following which Darshan went to his friend's house and continued to drink.

The accused then followed Darshan and started fighting with his friend over a trivial row.

Darshan tried to pacify them, but the accused, in an inebriated state, assaulted him and killed him on the spot, according to the police.

The accused fled the scene. The police rushed to the spot and later tracked down the accused and arrested them.

Bank employee from Bengaluru feared drowned in sea at Malpe

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

A 35-year-old bank employee from Bengaluru was feared drowned in the Arabian Sea, off Delta Beach, in Malpe police station limits, on Saturday. The Malpe police gave his name as Nitin.

The police, the Fire and Emergency Services personnel, and local fishermen are searching for Nitin.

The police said Nitin had come along with his friends Sanjay and Anand Kumar to Malpe on Friday.

A missing complaint has been registered.

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We are coming out with
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under SARFAESI Act on 05.02.2024
Nature of Properties
House Flat Office Space Plots (LAND FOR SALE) Industrial Properties
" For more details, please visit
https://karnatakabank.com/Mega Auction on 05th February 2024"
Connect with us on : / KarnatakaBank

Tumakuru District Administration, Zilla Panchayat and Tumakuru Smart City Limited

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

A pioneering initiative for the comprehensive development of Tumakuru District.

Inauguration/Foundation Stone laying for various development works in the limits of Tumakuru District and distribution of aid to beneficiaries of various schemes
By Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri Siddaramaiah

Inauguration and Foundation Stone laying for development works of various Departments
Total approx. expenditure of Rs. 657.27 crore

Date: Monday, 29th January, 2024. Time: 10.30 AM. Venue: Government Pre-University College Grounds, B.H. Road, Tumakuru.

Prominent Works:
- Bhoomi Puja for total 658 works under Jal Jeevan Mission Scheme in the limits of Gubbi, Koratagere, Kunigal, Madhugiri, Pavagada, Sira, Tiptur, Tumakuru and Turuvekere Taluks of Tumakuru District. Approx. cost of works: Rs. 32486 lakhs.
- Inauguration of Comprehensive Re-Development Works (First Stage) of Tumakuru Bus Stand under Tumakuru Smart City Project. Approx. cost of works: Rs. 10000 lakhs.
- Inauguration of Viveka Class Rooms in the limits of Tumakuru District. Approx. cost: Rs. 1718.30 lakhs.
- Foundation Stone laying for construction of Stadium in the campus of Sri Siddaganga Mutt in Tumakuru. Approx. cost: Rs. 200 lakhs.
- Distribution of aid/equipment to 30125 beneficiaries of Tumakuru District under various schemes. Approx. cost: Rs. 16319.26 lakhs.

August Presence

Sri D.K. Shivakumar — Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Sri A. Narayanaswamy — Hon'ble Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India
Dr. G. Parameshwara — Hon'ble Minister for Home and Tumakuru District In-charge Minister
Sri H.K. Patil — Hon'ble Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation, Tourism.
Sri Ramalinga Reddy — Hon'ble Minister for Transport and Muzrai
Sri K.J. George — Hon'ble Minister for Energy
Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa — Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare
Sri Satish Jarakiholi — Hon'ble Minister for Public Works
Sri Krishna Byregowda — Hon'ble Minister for Revenue
Sri Priyank Kharge — Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, I.T. & B.T.
Sri N. Chaluvaraya Swamy — Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture
Sri S.S. Mallikarjun — Hon'ble Minister for Mines & Geology and Horticulture
Sri Santosh S. Lad — Hon'ble Minister for Labour
Sri K. Venkatesh — Hon'ble Minister for Animal Husbandry and Sericulture
Sri Shivaraj Sangappa Tangadagi — Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes Welfare and Kannada & Culture
Sri B. Nagendra — Hon'ble Minister for Youth Services, Sports, and Scheduled Tribes Welfare
Sri K.N. Rajanna — Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation
Sri Suresh B.S. — Hon'ble Minister for Urban Development and Town Planning
Smt. Laxmi R. Hebbalkar — Hon'ble Minister for Women and Child Development, Disabled and Senior-Citizens Empowerment
Sri Mankal Vaidya — Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries and Ports, Inland Transport
Sri Madhu Bangarappa — Hon'ble Minister for Primary and Secondary Education
Dr. M.C. Sudhakar — Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education
Sri T.B. Jayachandra — Hon'ble Special Representative of Karnataka State in New Delhi and MLA, Sira Assembly Constituency

Dr. G. Parameshwara, Hon'ble Home Minister and Sri K.N. Rajanna, Hon'ble Minister for Co-operation inaugurating the New Police Residential Complex at Tumakuru.

Presided by
Sri G.B. Jyothi Ganesh, Hon'ble MLA, Tumakuru City Assembly Constituency

Hon'ble MPs, MLAs, MLCs, Worshipful Mayor of Tumakuru Mahanagara Palike, Local Elected Representatives will participate in the programme as Special Invitees.

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FREE BUS Service for women across Karnataka
Gruha Jyothi Up to 200 Units of Free Electricity to each home
Anna Bhagya 10kg Free Food Grains (per person / per month)
Gruha Lakshmi ₹2000 per month female head of the family
Yuva Nidhi ₹3000 Per month for Graduates ₹1500 Per month for Diploma Holders

As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

All are Cordially Invited

karnataka information

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Amount pulled out by FPIs from Indian equities

24,700 in ₹ crore. Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have pulled out from the Indian market this month, owing to surging bond yield in the U.S. PTI

Number of infra projects hit by cost overrun in December

431 The infra projects, each entailing an investment of ₹150 crore or more, were showing a cost overrun of more than ₹4.82 lakh crore, as per the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. PTI

Rise in child rape cases in India from 2016 to 2022

96 in percentage. Child rape cases, including penetrative assaults, have registered a drastic rise from 2016 to 2022, according to NGO Child Rights and You (CRY)'s analysis of the NCRB data. PTI

The death toll in Gaza in the ongoing Israel-Palestine war

26,422 The Health ministry in Gaza said that since October 7, 2023, 65,087 have been wounded, while in the last day alone, 165 people were killed. AFP

The worth of arms stolen by corrupt officials in Ukraine

40 in $ million. Employees from a Ukrainian arms firm conspired with Defence ministry officials to embezzle funds earmarked for 1,00,000 mortar shells. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Analysing China's ties with Africa

Which countries did Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi visit during his trip to the continent? What has been the history of the relationship between Africa and China? What is China's foreign policy of non-interference?

EXPLAINER

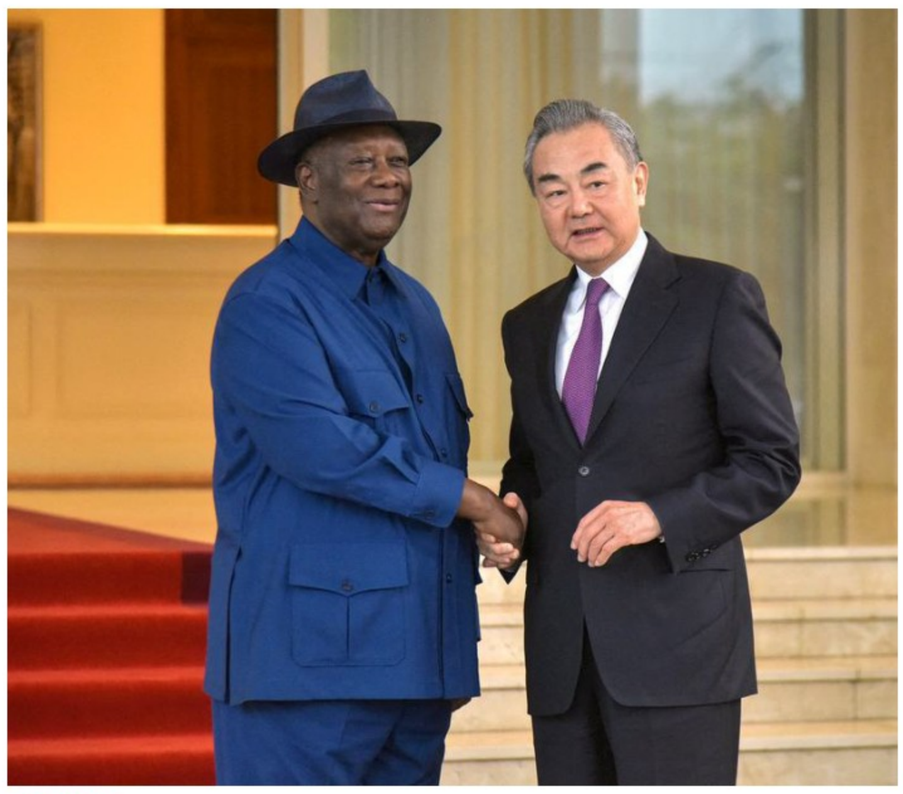
Anu Maria Joseph
Femy Francis

The story so far:
From January 13-18, the Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs, Wang Yi, visited four African countries, Egypt, Tunisia, Togo and the Ivory Coast. This was Wang Yi's 11th annual trip to Africa to enhance economic and security cooperation with the continent.

What was the visit about?
Wang Yi's visit to Africa had multiple objectives. The major agenda was to implement the outcomes of the China-Africa Leaders Dialogue held in August 2023 in Johannesburg, South Africa. It included the execution of three initiatives, including support for Africa's industrialisation, agricultural modernisation, and cooperation on talent development. The visit sets a precedent for the ninth Forum on China-Africa Cooperation 2024 (FOCAC). In Egypt, which shares the Rafah border with Gaza, China has communicated its intention to be a global actor, mediating peace in Gaza. Wang Yi met with the leaders of Egypt, Tunisia and the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, calling for an "immediate and comprehensive ceasefire" in Gaza.

Why is Africa China's first stop for the past 34 years?
Sino-African relations go back to the 1950s when China supported several African liberation movements during the Cold War era. In the 70s, African countries' support was paramount in China acquiring its seat in the UN Security Council. Earlier, their relationship focused on ideological support; it was only in 1999 that China encouraged its companies to invest in Africa as part of the "Go Out Policy."

In 2000, the FOCAC held its first dialogue, aiming to consolidate China-Africa cooperation under diplomacy, investment and trade. The dialogue aptly outlined the steady growth from trade, to aid, to "mutual security assistance," under Xi Jinping. In 2013, the relationship amplified with China launching its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), building inroads with 52 African countries as signatories. Currently, China is Africa's largest trading partner, with over one-fourth of its raw material exported to China. The Chinese Loans to Africa database highlights that between 2000 and 2022, loans worth $170.08 billion were granted to 49 African countries. The nature of Chinese presence in Africa has grown from being a mere investor to a strategic actor with the People's Liberation Army Navy stationing its first international base in Djibouti.



Firm bonds: Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara with Wang Yi on January 17. REUTERS

What are China's objectives in Africa?
First, access to key resources. Africa supplies 90% of the world's cobalt and platinum, and 75% of coltan, essential for electronics. China has the largest refineries in Africa for rare earths and minerals that are vital to its emerging tech industry. The dominance in the mining sector has made the U.S. dependable on China for key minerals from Africa.

Second, the African alliance and its geopolitical aspirations. In the UN General Assembly, Africa is the largest bloc and has the power to swing resolutions on contentious issues like the South China Sea. Africa has been vocal in supporting China in the international arena including its "One China" policy for Taiwan and Hong Kong. Third, strengthening the Yuan (RMB). China is encouraging Africa to trade in Chinese currency. The RMB offers cross-border yuan-based "panda bonds," by which foreign governments can issue funds from China at lower interest rates. Additionally, China's debt restructuring of Zambia's $4.1 billion loan has incentivised borrowers towards RMB. With lower Chinese interest rates and the depreciation of African local currency, the RMB stands as an alternative to the dollar. Fourth, commercial opportunities. Africa imports largely from China for finished goods. The African markets for Chinese exports are beneficial for the Chinese economy. Africa's young population and cheap labour force support Chinese exports globally and in Africa.

What does the visit mean for Africa?
Africa receives investment, trade and development aid from China in return for natural resources. China has also become a significant source of foreign direct investment. Chinese-built infrastructure and industrial parks have provided employment opportunities and has made the idea of "Made in Africa" a reality. Additionally, Chinese support in advancing hybrid crops helped Africa further its agricultural sector. In Africa, cooperation with China is perceived with a high degree of mutual trust and as a 'win-win partnership'. Besides, the China-Africa partnership featuring non-intervention has gained momentum across the continent. Chinese disregard for imposing political conditionality on development aid, unlike the West, has given opportunities to African countries to secure their interests. However, the West has voiced fears that Chinese investments are predatory, hinting at debt traps. Although some countries including Kenya and Zambia have poorly managed their debt, other African countries have manageable debt arrangements with China. However, the Chinese debt trap narrative cannot be outrightly dismissed. Besides, Chinese 'non-interference' rhetoric has given several authoritarian regimes in Africa a space to stay in power.

The authors are Research Associates at NIAS , Bangalore.

THE GIST

- Wang Yi's visit to Africa had multiple objectives. The major agenda was to implement the outcomes of the China-Africa Leaders Dialogue held in August 2023 in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Africa supplies 90% of the world's cobalt and platinum, and 75% of coltan, essential for electronics. China has the largest refineries in Africa for rare earths and minerals that are vital to its emerging tech industry.
- Africa receives investments, trade and development aid from China in return for natural resources.

What are the RBI's guidelines on State 'guarantees'?

What has the apex banking regulator said about according guarantees?

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:
On January 16, a working group constituted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made certain recommendations to address issues relating to guarantees extended by State governments. Among other things, the Working Group prescribed a uniform reporting framework for the guarantees extended, besides expanding the definition of what constitutes a 'guarantee.'

What constitutes a 'guarantee'?
A 'guarantee' is contingent liability of a State, processed by an accessory contract, that protects the lender/investor from the risk of borrower defaulting. They promise to be answerable for the debt, default or miscarriage of the latter. The entity to whom the guarantee is given is the 'creditor', the defaulting entity on whose behalf the guarantee is given is called the 'principal debtor' and the entity giving the guarantee (State governments in this context) is called the 'surety'. If A delivers certain goods or services to B and B does not make the agreed-upon payment, B is defaulting and at the risk of being sued for the debt. C steps in and promises that s/he would pay for the default of B. This is a guarantee. The RBI working group's report notes that while guarantees are innocuous in good times, it may lead to significant fiscal risks and burden the State at other times. This may result in unanticipated cash outflows and increased debt. State governments are often required to sanction, and issue guarantees, on behalf of State-owned enterprises, cooperative institutions, urban local bodies and/or other State-governed entities, to respective lenders. The latter could be commercial banks or other financial institutions. In return, the entities are required to pay a guarantee fee to the governments.

What about definition of guarantee?
The Working Group has suggested that the term 'guarantee' should be used in a broader sense and include all instruments, by whatever name they may be called, if they create obligation on the guarantor (State) to make a payment on behalf of the borrower at a future date. Further, it must not make any distinction between conditional or unconditional, or financial or performance guarantees in order to assess the fiscal risk.

What about according guarantees?
The Working Group has recommended that government guarantees should not be used to obtain finance through State-owned entities, which substitute budgetary resources of the State Government. Additionally, they should not be allowed to create direct liability/de-facto liability on the State. It further recommends adherence to the Government of India guidelines that stipulate that guarantees be given only for the principal amount and normal interest component of the underlying loan. Furthermore, they must not be extended for external commercial borrowings, must not be extended for more than 80% of the project loan and must not be provided to private sector companies/ institutions.

What about risk determination?
The Group suggested that States assign appropriate risk weights (indicative of the holding the lender should ideally have to adjust the associated risk) before extending guarantees. The categorisation could be high, medium or low risk. These must also consider past record of defaults.

Additionally, it deemed a ceiling on issuance of guarantees as "desirable." The report argues that should a guarantee be required to be invoked, it could lead to significant fiscal stress on the State government. To manage the potential stress, for incremental guarantees (additional guarantees) issued during a year, it proposes a ceiling at 5% of Revenue Receipts or 0.5% of GSDP – whichever is less.

What about disclosures?
The Working Group has recommended that the apex banking regulator may consider advising banks/NBFCs to disclose the credit extended to State-owned entities, backed by State-government guarantees. Availability of data, both from issuer and the lender, the report states, may improve the credibility of the data reported by the State government. It has also sought a proper database capturing all extended guarantees.

THE GIST

- On January 16, a working group constituted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) made certain recommendations to address issues relating to guarantees extended by State governments.
- A 'guarantee' is a legal obligation for a State to make payments and protect an investor/lender from the risk of default by a borrower.
- The RBI working group's report notes that while guarantees are innocuous in good times, it may lead to significant fiscal risks and burden the State at other times.

CM: Reject BJP for its stand on Constitution

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar with other leaders at a convention of the oppressed classes, in Chitradurga on Sunday.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The political scene is heating up in Karnataka ahead of the Lok Sabha election, with the Congress on Sunday asking people to reject the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for its stand on the Constitution even as poll preparation in the saffron party is under way.

Urging people to discard the BJP-RSS for dividing society and opposing the Constitution, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said the backward classes, Dalits, and oppressed communities should clearly identify their enemy. "Develop self-respect. Identify the enemy of the backward classes, Dalits, and oppressed classes and discard them. Teach people who are opposed to the Constitution or who want to change the Constitution a lesson. If we protect the Constitution, it will protect us," he said addressing a convention of the oppressed classes, organised in Chitradurga by the Karnataka Backward Classes Federation and Karnataka Oppressed Caste-Communities Federation.

Equal opportunities

He said the BJP and the RSS have opposed the Mandal commission report, and that the two are opposed to the concept of social justice and equal opportunities.

He said, "Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had warned that the power should not go into hands of those opposed to the Constitution, reservation, and social justice. We should not forget this warning. If the Constitution was not there, BJP leaders such as C.T. Ravi, K.S. Eshwarappa, and R. Ashok would not have entered legislature but be working in some agricultural fields."

He said that people also oppose him because a shepherd's son has become the Chief Minister and implemented people-friendly schemes that reach all castes and communities.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said the caste system denied literacy to the oppressed, resulting in social and economic inequality in society. The ideals of the Constitution and Ambedkar are to remove the caste-driven inequalities, he said, adding that it was for the same reason that vested interests want to change the Constitution to continue the oppression. "On one hand they want to change the Constitution and on the other, they want to remove reservation...."

Terming the convention as historic, he said: "Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is fighting to provide justice to all sections of society and equality will be provided to all under the leadership of party president Mallikarjun Kharge"

'Will accept Kantharaj panel report'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that H. Kantharaj's report on the Socio-economic and Educational Survey or the caste census is being opposed by some without reading it, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said the government was committed to accepting the Kantharaj commission report.

The announcement came in the light of the current chairperson of the Karnataka State Permanent Commission for Backward Classes Jayaprakash Hegde finalising the report of the survey that is expected to be submitted to the government shortly. Earlier, speaking to reporters, the Chief Minister said he would accept the report if it was submitted, and that he would discuss the details after the report was submitted.

Removal of saffron flag triggers tension in village in Mandya district

The flag with the image of Lord Hanuman was replaced with the national flag; MLA says youth organisation had sought nod to hoist national flag

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Authorities hoisted the tricolour atop a 108-ft flagpole at Keregodu in Mandya district on Sunday hours after the removal of a saffron flag with an image of Lord Hanuman on it, sparked a protest in the village.

Local people along with BJP and Janata Dal (S) leaders staged a protest soon after the authorities removed the saffron flag, citing rules that permitted only the national flag to be flown on government land.

Amid the rising tension in the town, with protesters gathering at the venue in large numbers and shouting slogans against the Congress government and the police tightening security by deploying additional forces, the authorities managed to hoist the national flag.

In the melee the crowd broke the barricades erected in the area, forcing the police to resort to lathicharge to maintain law and order.

Meanwhile, a host of BJP and JD(S) leaders, including Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok and former MLA Suresh Gowda, who joined the protesters at Keregodu, were taken into custody by the police.

The local youths had obtained permission from the gram panchayat to hoist a flag in front of the Hanuman temple on January 22 to mark the inauguration of Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

However, local Congress MLA Ravi Kumar Ganiga maintained that the gram panchayat had given the nod as the local youth organisation had sought permission to hoist the national flag in their application. The land belonged to the government and rules provided for hoisting only the national flag on such land, he said.

Also, Mr. Ganiga said there were plans to build a bus stand on the same land out of grants from the Chief Minister's Special funds and the KSRTC.

When the local organisation hoisted the saffron flag, Mr. Ganiga said the authorities started receiving requests from the local Dalit Sangharsha Samiti, Kurubara Sangha, and the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha too for hoisting their flags on government land.

Law of the land

The government would not have objected to the saffron flag if it had been hoisted on private land or temple land. "The law of the land is the same for everybody. We can't give permission to one section and deny the same to the other," he said, citing requests for hoisting flags from other groups.

He blamed the BJP and JD(S) for fuelling unrest over the flag so that the issue was kept alive till the Lok Sabha elections.

Mr. Ashok said the BJP and JD(S) would launch an agitation against the Congress government with a padyatra from Keregodu on Monday. He said the protesters would lay siege to the office of the Deputy Commissioner in Mandya.

The police controlling protesters and maintaining law and order at Keregodu village in Mandya district on Sunday, and (above, left) the national flag hoisted by the authorities. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Congress and Opposition lock horns over incident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The decision to remove a saffron flag with an image of Lord Hanuman on it hoisted on a flagpole erected on government premises at Keregodu village in Mandya district led to not only tension in the village but also a slugfest between the ruling Congress and the Opposition BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) on Sunday.

While the BJP opposed the action, the government said the flag had been hoisted illegally since there is no provision for hoisting any other flag except the national flag on the government premises. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told presspersons in Chitradurga that it was not right to have flown the another flag instead of the national flag.

Govt. releases papers

The Gowrishankar Seva Trust had approached the Keregodu Gram Panchayat on December 29, 2023, to construct a flagpole on Keregodu Ranga Mandira premises, and committed to hoisting the national flag and the Kannada flag, documents released by the government show. The gram panchayat gave its approval on January 5, 2024, since there was no objection, but laid down conditions that included prohibiting them not to hoist any political or religious flags. The trust was to intimate the local police and the gram panchayat three or four days before hoisting the flag. One of the conditions included that they would not incite any violence.

> Under the Constitution, only the national flag should be hoisted on government premises. No political or religious flag can be hoisted.
>
> **N. CHELUVARAYASWAMY,** Minister in-charge of Mandya district

"Under the Constitution, only the national flag should be hoisted on government premises. No political or religious flag can be hoisted. It is wrong to take permission to hoist the national flag on government premises and hoist another flag," Mandya district in-charge and Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy told presspersons in Mandya. Clarifying that there is no politics involved in the removal of the flag, he said it was wrong if the gram panchayat meeting had permitted the saffron flag to be hoisted, and added that action would be taken against those responsible.

Extending support to the local youth, the former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said the police force was used because the local legislator had not been invited for the event. "The government has become uncivil, unpardonable and anti-people."

The former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said in Haveri that the government was following appeasement politics in removing the flag.

Tenure of posts in boards reduced to reward more leaders, says DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday said the Congress high command had reduced the tenure of boards and corporation positions to two years to ensure that more number of party workers are rewarded for their work.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Mr. Shivakumar said: "The tenure has been reduced to two years to ensure that all the Congress workers who have worked hard for the party over the years are recognised and rewarded."

"We have only introduced the high command *sutra*. This is not the formula of [Chief Minister] Siddaramaiah or D.K. Shivakumar. Many Congress workers have worked for party and it is the party's responsibility to reward them," the KPCC president said.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Of power cut and 'shock'

During the recent inauguration of a lift irrigation project at Periyapatna by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, a technical malfunction had the authorities fuming and squirming.

For, the mechanism to pump water to 150 lakes as envisaged under the project failed to switch on at the key moment of inauguration, much to the chagrin of the Chief Minister. But what was equally shocking was the absence of Managing Director of Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation C.N. Sridhar at the venue.

This was perceived to be a violation of protocol as all departmental heads are expected to be compulsorily present during such occasions. Within hours, the CESC MD received a suspension order for dereliction of duty. Whether the *faux pas* was due to a power failure or mechanical failure is something which will be known once the departmental inquiry is complete. But for now the public perception is that power cut has delivered a shock to the hapless official.

More loyal to caste

Congress veteran leader and senior MLA Shamanur Shivashankarappa *(in picture, left)* is more loyal to his caste than the party. At an event in Shivamogga, he asked the people to re-elect their incumbent BJP MP B.Y. Raghavendra *(in picture, right)*, son of the former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa.

Mr. Shivashankarappa, president of the All-India Veerashaiva Mahasabha, described the MP who belongs to his caste as a "good leader and good human being" who has done much for his constituency.

Visibly thrilled at this endorsement from the "enemy camp", Mr. Raghavendra gushed and said it was "one of the most auspicious days" of his political life.

On an earlier occasion, Mr. Shivashankarappa had embarrassed the Congress government by claiming that the dominant Lingayat community had been side-lined in the selection of top officials. The 92-year-old leader's latest statement lavishing praise on the BJP leader comes at a time when the Congress is preparing to win at least 20 Lok Sabha seats, including Shivamogga.

Disappointment with postings

Several MLAs seem to be not too pleased with the postings of the boards and corporations. Some legislators such as Hampanagouda Badarli and S.N. Subba Reddy have reportedly decided not to accept the appointment letters.

Mr. Reddy, Bagepalli MLA, who has been appointed as chairman of the Karnataka Seeds Development Corporation, has decided to call a meeting of his supporters to decide the "next course of action".

Mr. Badarli, who has been appointed as the head of the Karnataka Industries Infrastructure Development Corporation, too has rejected the offer.

It is believed that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will reshuffle his Ministry after the Lok Sabha elections and MLAs who have been appointed for boards and corporations now would not be inducted into the ministry, which explains their unhappiness. MLCs who have not been given any postings have been reportedly disappointed with the government's notification. Denial of postings to Dakshina Kannada leaders too is said to have not gone well with the district cadre.

R. Krishna Kumar
Nagesh Prabhu

RAICHUR DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
Raichur District Urban Development Cell

TENDER NO: DCRAI-PDOENGG/24-29/2024-PD(UD)RAICHUR Dated: 26-01-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Deputy Commissioner, District Raichur, invites online tenders through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) with URL https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from experienced and eligible agencies or suppliers for "Providing Manpower services of Data Entry Operators to Raichur District on outsource basis and for supply of desktop computers for computerization of revenue records in Raichur talluk office.The KPPP Tender numbers are 1) DMA/2023-24/SE2143(Est cost:Rs 40.00 lakhs). 2) DMA/2023-24/SE2144 (Est cost:Rs 60.00 lakhs) 3) DMA/2023-24/SE2145 (Est cost: Rs 57.9 lakhs) 4)DMA/2023-24/SE2146 (Est cost:Rs 52.10 lakhs)5) DMA/2023-24/SE2116 (Est cost:Rs 9.25 lakhs) 6)DMA/2023-24/IND1333 (Est cost:Rs 7.00 lakhs) EMD to be paid is Min. Rs 16100/- and Max.Rs 119500/- .Date & time of uploading tender on KPPP: 29-01-2024 at 4:00p.m. Last date & time for submitting tenders through KPPP:05-02-2024 up to 5:00p.m. Date of opening of technical bid of the proposal through KPPP:06-02-2024 at 5:15 p.m. Date of Opening of Financial bid of the proposal through KPPP: 09-02-2024 at 3:30p.m. For detailed notification the proposers may visit website www.raichurdudc.mrc.gov.in.

DIP/RCR/419/KSMC&A/416/2023-24

Sd/- Project Director
Raichur District Urban Development Cell

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: SEE/Tr(W&M)/SMG/EE(O)/AEE(C)/2023-24/6554-558 Date:25.01.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites tenders through KPP Portal from the Registered KPWD contractors having EPF registration and fulfilling the other requirements as in NIT in Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Shivamogga.

1) Providing Boundary Demarcation RCC Pillars along the 110kV Line corridor in the Forest land in respect to Work of Laying 110KV SC line on DC Towers from the existing 110/11kV Thogarsi Sub-Station to the proposed 1X10 MVA, 110/11kV Sub-Station at Kuppagadde in Soraba Taluk, Shivamogga District (Call-4).

For detailed information and to participate in the tender through KPP Portal, please visit our website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** hyperlink "e-procurement" or directly you can access the tendering website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 11.00 AM on Dt: 29.01.2024**. Any other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele),
Transmission(W&M),Circle, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, M.R.S Colony, Shivamogga - 577203.
Telefax : 08182-272624

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

ABHIJIT RAGHURAMA NAIK

Date of birth - 18:05:1988
Date of expiry - 25:01:2024

We, Raghurama Naik K and Vanaja R Naik regret to inform the sudden demise of our beloved son.

"He will be dearly missed and his memories will be cherished forever."

- Thanuja Naik (wife), Siddhaan Naik (son) , along with Grief stricken Family & Friends

BUILDING BLOCKS

ISTOCKPHOTO

What is end-to-end encryption and how does it secure information?

Encryption is the act of changing some consumable information into an inconsumable form based on some rules. There are several ways to encrypt information depending on the level of secrecy and protection required

Vasudevan Mukunth

Information is wealth, and an important way to protect it is encryption. End-to-end (E2E) encryption in particular protects information in a way that has transformed human rights organisations', law-enforcement agencies', and tech companies' outlook on their ability to access information about individuals to protect, prosecute or profit from their engagement, as the case may be.

What is encryption?

Fundamentally, encryption is the act of changing some consumable information into an inconsumable form based on some rules. There are different kinds of such rules. For example, the Data Encryption Standard (DES), plus some settings, encrypts the words "ice cream" to AdNgzrrtxcpeUzzAdN7dwA== with the key "kite". If the key is, say, "motorcycle" instead, the encrypted text becomes 8nR+8aZxL89fAwru/+VyXw==.

The key is some data using which a computer can 'unlock' (decrypt) some 'locked' (encrypted) text, knowing the set of rules used to 'lock' it.

Say I write down AdNgzrrtxcpeUzzAdN7dwA== on one piece of paper and "kite" on another piece of paper, crumple them both, and throw them at my friend across the room. Suddenly a man I didn't notice in the middle of the room leaps up to snatch the piece of paper saying AdNgzrrtxcpeUzzAdN7dwA== and runs away with it. But since this fellow doesn't know the key ("kite"), he won't know what the piece of paper says.

This is how encryption protects digital information, digitally.

What is E2E encryption?

E2E is encryption that refers to particular locations between which information moves. Say you are chatting with your friend on a messaging app. When you send a message, it first goes to a server maintained by the company that built the app; based on its instructions, the server routes the message to your friend. In this setup, two important forms of encryption are encryption-in-transit and E2E encryption.

Encryption-in-transit means before a message is relayed from the server to you (or vice versa), it is encrypted. This scheme is used to prevent an actor from being able to read the contents of the message by intercepting the relay. In E2E encryption, the message is encrypted both in transit and at rest – that is when being relayed from your phone to the server (or vice versa) and when it is sitting inside the server. It is only decrypted when your friend receives the message.

How is information encrypted?

There are several ways to encrypt information depending on the level of secrecy and protection required. If some information is to remain encrypted for 100 years, a computer must require more than 100 years to decrypt it without the key.

One broad distinction is between symmetric and asymmetric encryption. In symmetric encryption, the key used to encrypt some information is also the key required to decrypt it. DES is a famous example of a symmetric encryption protocol. In a stronger version of DES, called Triple DES, the key a user provides is split into three parts. Let's say they are "mot", "orcy", and "cle". Then, the message –"ice cream" – is encrypted by the first part ("mot"); the result is decrypted by the second part ("orcy"); and its result is again encrypted by the third part ("cle"). The garbled text thus produced is then transmitted to the recipient along with the key. Symmetric encryption is useful when the sender and the recipient are the same person, for example when you encrypt the hard drive of your computer. The Advanced Encryption Standard (AES), which you might have noticed when setting your WiFi password, is also a symmetric encryption algorithm.

In asymmetric encryption, if the message "ice cream" is encrypted using the key "motorcycle", it can be decrypted using a different key that corresponds to "motorcycle" in a predetermined way. For example, say you and your friend agree that if you use the key "motorcycle" to encrypt the message, your friend will use the key "helmet" to decrypt it, and if you use "banana" to encrypt, your friend will use "pineapple" to decrypt. You and your friend go to a party and find yourself standing far from each other, and you wish to send them a message. So you encrypt "ice cream" with "banana" as the key, and you shout out the encrypted text to your friend along with the word "banana". Your friend now knows that they should decrypt the text using the key "pineapple" to reveal the underlying message. In this situation, using asymmetric encryption, you have been able to reveal the encryption key without compromising your or your friend's privacy. The key you shouted out is called the public key; the corresponding key you agreed your friend would use is called the private key.

Asymmetric encryption will work as long as the private key and the correspondence between the public key and the private key are kept secret. In advanced implementations of asymmetric encryption, this correspondence is 'stored' in the solution of a mathematical problem that even a computer would require a long time to solve. It is useful when the sender and the recipient are different. The level of protection it confers is greater the longer the key is.

There are different symmetric and asymmetric schemes that encrypt messages in different ways. For example, the messaging app WhatsApp uses the Curve25519 algorithm to create public keys for messages. Curve25519 uses the principles of elliptic-curve cryptography (ECC), which is based on some concepts in algebraic geometry. ECC's advantage is that it can provide the same level of security as an asymmetric encryption algorithm but with a shorter key.

Can E2E encryption be 'cracked'?

Messaging apps with E2E encryption promise that even their parent companies won't be able to read messages sent and received by its users. However, the informational content of the messages can still be acquired in other ways.

A common example is the man-in-the-middle (MITM) attack. This is related to the example earlier of an unnoticed man in the middle of the room jumping up to intercept your message to your friend. In that instance, the man didn't have the key and couldn't decrypt the message. In an MITM attack, this man is the attacker and he has been able to acquire the key to decrypt the message, either by hacking your device to obtain the encryption key as well as the correspondence between the encryption and decryption keys or by hacking your friend's device to acquire the decryption keys. MITM attacks can be prevented by using and comparing fingerprints. Each fingerprint is some data that uniquely identifies a key. Users can compare the fingerprints of their public keys in a separate channel (that is different from the one susceptible to an MITM attack) to make sure an attacker doesn't intercept a message, modify it, re-encrypt it with a different key and send it to the recipient.

Another issue with E2E encryption is that it could induce complacency in a user who believes an attacker can't access, say, an image they're sending over a messaging app in any other way. Since the image may be stored on the sender's device, an attacker can hack the device to obtain it. Some potent malware can also 'snoop' on your messages by infiltrating your device via other means, an SMS, and reading them before they are encrypted.

Finally, the company that installs E2E encryption on its products can install a backdoor or an exception that allows the company to surmount the encryption and access the messages. Such a thing may be required by law, such as companies being expected to retain and, in the event of litigation, share that information with lawyers. Illegal use also abounds, of course, such as that exposed in the Edward Snowden affair in 2013. The whistle-blower revealed, for example, that Skype had installed a backdoor on its application that allowed it to access and make copies of the contents of messages to share with the U.S. National Security Agency even though the messages were E2E-encrypted.

If the goal is to surveil a user, an actor can do so if they can access the messages' metadata, that is data about the messages, such as when they were sent, to which user, how often at different times, from which location, etc., instead of the messages themselves.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on the Supreme Court of India, the country's apex judicial body, on its diamond jubilee that was observed on January 28

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
The Supreme Court, which came into existence on January 28, 1950, replaced which bodies that were then at the apex of the Indian court system?

QUESTION 2
What is the motto of the Supreme Court as inscribed on its seal?

QUESTION 3
The original Constitution of 1950 envisaged a Supreme Court with a Chief Justice and 7 puisne Judges. What is the current strength of judges in the Supreme Court?

QUESTION 4
What is the design of the Supreme Court building shaped as?

QUESTION 5
What does a 2.1m black bronze sculpture crafted by Chintamoni Kar, and installed in 1978, portray?

QUESTION 6
What record does the *Kesavananda Bharati versus State of Kerala* case of 1973 hold as regards the Bench?

Visual question:
Identify this first woman judge of the Supreme Court who was sworn into office in 1989.

Questions and Answers to the January 26 edition of the daily quiz: 1. This freedom fighter was also involved in the Irish struggle for independence in the early 20th century. **Ans: V.V. Giri**
2. This person worked as a journalist for *The Hindu* in the mid-1940s. He also served as the vice-chancellor of the Jawarharlal Nehru University. **Ans: K.R. Narayanan**
3. This person went on to become the chief scientific adviser to the Prime Minister and secretary of the DRDO from 1992 to 1999. **Ans: A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**
4. Name the only President who was re-elected for two consecutive terms. **Ans: Rajendra Prasad**
5. This person served in several roles in Jamia Millia Islamia, including as vice chancellor and later in the same post at Aligarh Muslim University. **Ans: Zakir Husain**
Visual: Identify him. **Ans: Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy**
Early Birds: C. Saravanan| Chandrika Kumar| Vaibhav Rawat| Samir Gupta| Vikas Singh

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

He took credit as he did most of the legwork

Both of the new recruits were working Monday through Friday on this project

S. Upendran

"How do you pronounce g..o..a..t..e..e?"

"The 'goa' is pronounced like the word 'go', and the 'tee' is pronounced like the word 'tea'. The word is pronounced 'go-TEA' with the stress on the second syllable. Do you know what a goatee is?"

"Isn't it the pointed beard that you grow on the chin?"

"Very good! When you have a goatee, you leave the area around the chin alone. You shave everywhere else – cheeks, under the neck, etc."

"I am not fond of the goatee. Are you?"

"It looks great on some people."

"That's true! But why is it called 'goatee'? Is there a reason?"

"It was given that name because it reminded a lot of people of the beard that grows on the chin of male goats."

"I see! So, it's from the word 'goat' that we get 'goatee'. Makes sense, I guess."

"In the past, people in the West did not look upon the goatee very favourably. Satan or the Devil was always shown having a goatee."

"Guess that explains why in many of the old black and white films, the villain usually had a goatee."

"Good point! Tell me, how is your project coming along?"

"Very slowly, I'm afraid! We need to interview more than a hundred people. That's taking time. I don't know when..."

"I'm sure your company has hired people to do the necessary legwork."

"Legwork? I've heard of 'handwork'. But not legwork."

"The amount of walking and talking that you do, in order to get the information you need to complete your work, is often referred to as 'legwork'. The word is used in informal contexts."

"So, can I refer to the interviews that my people are doing as 'legwork'?"

"You certainly can. The word carries with it a sense of boring or tedious work."

"It's the donkey work that one has to do to complete a project."

"I guess you could say that. Here's an example. It's an interesting study. But I need to hire two people for the legwork."

"The police are nowhere near solving the murder. After months of legwork, they still don't have a suspect."

"When my book was published, I hosted a dinner for the students who did the legwork. They were happy."

"You make students do the legwork?"

"I always make it a point to hire college-going students to do my legwork."

"But most college students are busy Monday to Friday. How can you depend on them to get your...Tell me is it 'Monday to Friday' or is it something else?"

"The expression 'Monday to Friday' is mostly used in British English."

"What is it that the Americans say?"

"They say 'Monday through Friday'."

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Glower:
an angry stare; look at with a fixed gaze; look angry or sullen, wrinkle one's forehead, as if to signal disapproval

Synonyms: glare, frown

Usage: *The policeman glowered but did not say anything.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/glowerpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈglaʊə(ɹ)/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Why is there resistance to converting Kunigal Stud Farm into a township?

The proposal to develop an integrated township in place of the historic Kunigal Stud Farm has stirred a debate

EXPLAINER

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

A view of Kunigal Stud Farm. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Kunigal Stud Farm was started by Mysore ruler Tipu Sultan in the 1780s to breed the best quality horses

The story so far

In the middle of the winter session of the State Legislature at Belagavi recently, a meeting between Urban Development Minister B.S. (Byrathi) Suresh and Animal Husbandry Minister K. Venkatesh went almost unnoticed.

A social media post by Suresh later gave away a proposal of an integrated township at Kunigal in Tumakuru district. The plan on a township in Kunigal, about 70 kms from Bengaluru, would have been a welcome move in other circumstances as it would boost the development of the town. What, however, has riled the locals and racing enthusiasts was the proposal to have it in place of the historic Kunigal Stud Farm despite large tracts of government land being available elsewhere in the taluk.

How did the controversy begin?

After the end of a 30-year lease to United Racing and Bloodstock Breeders expired on September 30, 2022, a global tender was floated to identify a new lease holder in January 2023. Villoo Poonawalla of Greenfield Farms emerged as the highest bidder in the tender to manage the 421.32 acres stud farm with a bid of ₹1.4 crore per anum against a reserve price of ₹1.16 crore. However, the Congress government in November, 2023, decided to cancel the tender, and days later, meeting between the ministers took place. While the reserve price was fixed by the government, it is now insisting that the bid amount is low and hence the tender was cancelled.

What is the new proposal?

Based on a proposal made by the Congress legislator from Kunigal H.D. Ranganath, a relative of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, the Urban Development Department is exploring the possibility of having an integrated township to decongest Bengaluru. Feasibility studies are yet to be conducted before a final decision is taken. In a parallel move, the Government has also asked the Bangalore Turf Club to move to Kunigal Stud Farm to conduct its racing as its activities in the heart of Bengaluru is causing traffic congestion and this issue is often flagged.

Why is the proposal being opposed?

The Kunigal Stud Farm was started by Mysuru ruler Tipu Sultan in the 1780s to breed the best quality horses for his cavalry as he fought the British Army. Kunigal, historically, held an important place for the movement of people as the famed Kunigal tank, one of the largest fresh water bodies in the State, and the grazing field offered succour to the tired army. Locals and historians have opposed the integrated township in place of the stud farm and see the proposal as a real estate move by the politicians at the cost of a historically important place.

Who owns it?

The Animal Husbandry Department is the owner of the stud farm. After the death of Tipu Sultan in the IV Anglo-Mysore War in 1799, the British took it over and managed the stud farm directly through the central administration in Delhi. After Independence, the State government continued the farm to breed horses for the cavalry and mounted police. In 1968, it was handed over to Bangalore Turf Club to promote breeding and it was leased out to United Racing and Bloodstock Breeders in 1992.

What has been the contribution of the stud farm?

Those opposed to the integrated township in stud farm argue that it is possibly the oldest continuously operational horse breeding establishment in the world. While it provides employment opportunities to over 200 men, the sprawling areas has about 6,000 trees and home to many species of birds. A 400-year-old historic Lakshmi Narasimha temple is also inside the stud farm. Racing enthusiasts say since 2005, the Kunigal Stud Farm is among the top three stud farms in the country producing high quality horses, many of which have performed creditably in international events. Currently, the stud farm in Kunigal is the only functional stud farm in Karnataka that once had 18 stud farms.

What is the current situation?

The Kunigal town has been witnessing protests since the news came out in the social media post of Urban Development Minister. A big protest rally was organised on January 17, opposing the integrated township in place of stud farm. Former Prime Minister and JDS supremo H.D. Deve Gowda and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy have written to the government to drop the township proposal and instead declare the stud farm as a heritage place and promote horse breeding.

What is the government's stand?

While Animal Husbandry Minister K. Venkatesh maintained that nothing has been decided on the future of the stud farm yet, there has been no word from the Urban Development Minister. Kunigal MLA Dr. Ranganath now concedes that there has been no decision on the stud farm land. The Chief Minister Siddaramaiah washed off his hands on the controversial issue and asked the media persons to question the Urban Development Minister. The Chief Minister, however, confirmed that there is a proposal to provide 100 acres to BTC for racing activities.

Ageing in cells may increase the spread of ovarian cancer: IISc

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A study by researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) in Bengaluru has revealed that ageing in cells can increase the spread of ovarian cancer.

According to the IISc., ovarian cancer is dangerous because it often goes undetected until it has spread beyond the ovaries, and the symptoms can also be attributed to other conditions. Scientists believe that ageing can increase the spread of ovarian and other cancers, but the underlying mechanisms are not fully clear. Now, researchers have found that ovarian cancer cells can spread more easily in tissues that are senescent, or aged, because these tissues secrete a unique extracellular matrix that attracts the spreading cancer.

The researchers used a chemotherapy-induced senescent model to study this phenomenon. They first extracted tissues found in the lining of body cavities from mice models and exposed half of these tissues to chemotherapeutics that are used to treat cancer, pushing them to senescence – a state in which the cells stop replicating, but don't die.

"What you might call in a body ageing, in a cell or tissue, you would call it senescence," said Ramray Bhat, Associate Professor, Department of Developmental Biology and Genetics (DBG).

The team then exposed both young and aged mouse tissues and human tissue-like cell sheets to ovarian cancer cells. They used time-lapse imaging to tag the normal and cancer cells with different fluorescent markers so that they could be studied under a microscope for extended periods of time.

What they found was that the cancer cells chose to settle down more on the aged tissues.

Moreover, they settled closer to the aged normal cells in the cell sheets.

To figure out what was drawing the cancer cells to the aged cells, the team first wondered if they were being attracted to signaling molecules that were being secreted by the aged cells and diffusing over long distances. They built computer models to explore the interactions between the cancer cells and the aged cells.

What the researchers found was surprising, as it was not the diffusing molecules that were luring the cancer cells. It was proteins secreted by aged cells that settle down as the extracellular matrix (ECM) – the base on which the cells adhere and grow – that were calling the cancer cells.

"The ECM is what was bringing the cancer cells there and allowing them to better attach near the aged cells and spread faster," said Prof. Bhat.

Human cell lines

The team carried out experiments on human cell lines to replicate the predictions of the computer simulations. They noticed that the cancer cells stuck strongly to the extracellular matrix around the aged cells, and eventually cleared the aged cells away. They also noticed that the aged ECM had higher levels of proteins, such as fibronectin, laminin and hyaluronan, compared to the young cells' ECM, which allowed the cancer cells to bind more strongly.

Based on their findings, the researchers suggest that this could potentially be one of the reasons why aged populations typically tend to have worse outcomes in cancer than younger populations.

"The fact is that chemotherapy also induces senescence, and that senescence can make things worse. Appropriate use of chemotherapy could be very important in getting good outcomes in ovarian cancer," said Prof. Bhat.

Benaka to celebrate its 50th anniversay on Jan. 29 and 30

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

'Kindari Jogi' play by Benaka. SPECIA L ARRANGEMENT

Theatre troupe Benaka (short for Bengaluru Nagara Kalavidaru), started by threatre great B.V. Karnath in 1974, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

Benaka, which has remained active through these years, has been performing across the country with major productions such as *Sattavara Neralu, Hayavadana, Jokumaraswamy, Tabarana Kathe*, to name a few.

To mark the 50th anniversary, Benka is hosting a two-day programme featuring seminars and dramas. The inaugural day's programme on January 29 will commence from 10.30 a.m., while the formal inauguration will be held at 6.30 p.m. the same day in which Dr. Chandrasekhara Kambar, Srinivas G. Kappanna and I.M. Vittalamurthy will participate. There will be a book release on theatre and digital audio release of the play *Kindara Jogi*, followed by staging of the Kannada play *Jokumaraswamy* at 7 p.m.

On January 30, there will be a seminar at 3 p.m., followed by Ranga geethe and other programmes at 6 p.m, in which H.S. Venkatesh Murthy, B.R. Lakshman Rao and Arundhati Nag will participate. The event will conclude with Kannada play *Kindarajogi* at 7 p.m. The two-day programme will be held at Ravindra Kalakshetra on J.C. Road.

"Among several achievements of Benaka is 600 shows of critically acclaimed plays *Sattavara Neralu, Hayavadana* and *Jokumara Swamy* which an amateur theatre can be proud of. The fifth generation artists are carrying forward the legacy of Benaka," said film director T.S. Nagabharana, who now heads Benaka.

ISRO develops second generation Distress Alert Transmitter

Information about potential fishing zones are also transmitted to fishermen using DAT-SG

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The improvised Distress Alert Transmitter has advanced capabilities and features for the fishermen at sea to send emergency messages from fishing boats. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed an improvised Distress Alert Transmitter (DAT) with advanced capabilities and features for the fishermen at sea to send emergency messages from fishing boats.

The first version of DAT has been operational since 2010, using which messages were sent through a communication satellite and received at a central control station (INMCC: Indian Mission Control Centre), where the alert signals are decoded for the identity and location of the fishing boat.

The extracted information is then forwarded to Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCCs) under the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

Using this information, the MRCC coordinates to undertake search and rescue operations to save the fishermen in distress.

Till now, more than 20,000 DATs are being used.

"Further, taking advantage of technological developments in satellite communication and satellite navigation, ISRO has improvised DAT with advanced capabilities and features evolving to Second Generation DAT (DAT-SG)," ISRO said.

Distress alert from sea

The DAT-SG has the facility to send back acknowledgement to the fishermen who activate the distress alert from sea.

"This gives an assurance to him (the fisherman) of rescue coming to him. Apart from transmitting distress signals from the Sea, DAT-SG has the capability to receive messages from control centres. Using this, advance alert messages can be sent to the fishermen at sea whenever there are events of bad weather, cyclone tsunami or any other emergencies. Thus, the fishermen will be able to sail back home or go to safe places," ISRO said. Further, the information about potential fishing zones are also transmitted to fishermen using DAT-SG on regular intervals.

Bluetooth interface

"This helps fishermen to get good yield in the catch and saves time and fuel. DAT-SG can be connected to mobile phones using Bluetooth interface and the messages can be read in native language using an App in the mobile," the space agency added.

The central control centre (INMCC) has a web based network management system called Sagarmitra which maintains a database of registered DAT-SGs and helps MRCCs to access the information about boat, coordinate the boat in distress in real time.

This helps the Indian Coast Guard to undertake search and rescue operations at the time of distress, without any time delay. The services of DAT-SG has been declared operational on a 24 x 7 basis.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 29, 1974

Govt. Grant for Inter-caste Couples

Bangalore, Jan. 28: The Government has approved the rules for the grant of financial assistance to persons contracting inter-caste marriages, either of the parties being a Scheduled Caste person.

Under the rules, assistance as grant not exceeding Rs. 2,000 will be given after the marriage has taken place. The grant cannot be claimed as a matter of right. The Director of Social Welfare, subject to the availability of funds, will decide each case on merit. The assistance will be given only to the lawfully married couple whose marriage has been registered in a registration office.

Karnataka Official Languages Bill

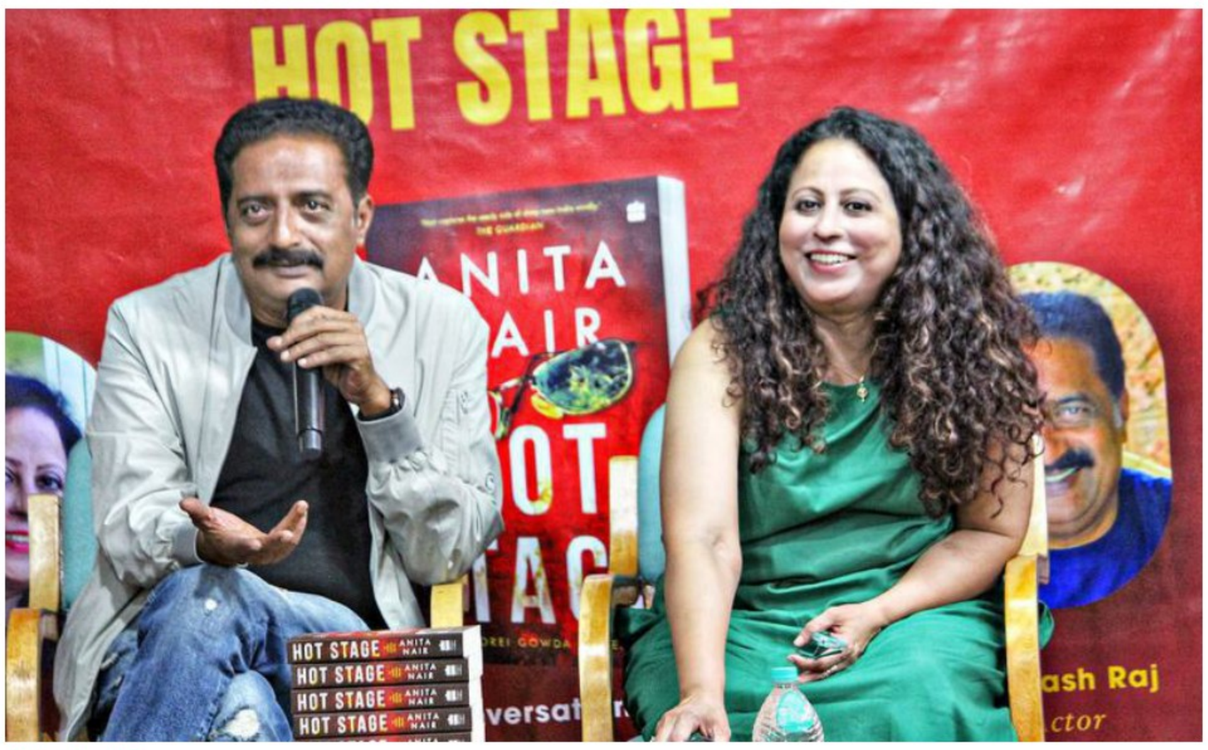
Bangalore, Jan. 28: The Karnataka Official Languages (Amendment) Bill 1974, providing for a declaration that a translation of any Central or State Act or any Ordinance promulgated by the President, or the Governor in Kannada language be deemed to be authoritative text thereof in the Kannada language, has been published.

According to the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill, the Government recently reorganised the Translation Department by creating the Directorate of Languages and also constituted an Experts Committee called the Official Language (Legislative) Experts Committee for the scrutiny of legislation made by the Directorate of State and Central Acts. The Kannada translations, after scrutiny by the Committee, are being published.

Anita Nair on 'Hot Stage': 'The novels are a journey of discovery'

From dialects to bar snacks, the Gowda books throw up interesting facets about the city Anita Nair has called home for the last 24 years

Mini Anthikad Chhibber



Larger than life Author Anita Nair and actor Prakash Raj at the launch of *Hot Stage*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Borei Gowda, who was introduced in Anita Nair's police procedural, *Cut Like Wound*, is one of her favourite characters. The 57-year-old author was speaking at Bookworm on Church Street in Bengaluru, at the launch of the third novel Gowda novel, *Hot Stage* (Harper Collins). For all who have wondered what Gowda looks like, Anita names actor Prakash Raj as the inspiration. The actor was at the launch and read an excerpt from the book.

"Prakash has been my muse in so many ways," says Anita. "I was a quarter way into *Cut Like Wound*, and had this character fully formed in my head, but I didn't have a face for him. Then out of the blue it was Prakash Raj. He became Gowda in my head." Gowda and Prakash are roughly the same age and are both Bangalore boys, Anita says.

Strong impact

Raj has created such a strong impact in the way she thinks, Anita says. "Two of my best stories in audio format, 'The Little Duck Girl' and 'A Field of Flowers' were both read by Prakash. When I was writing those stories, I couldn't think of anybody else who could play that role."

The award-winning actor, well known for his work in several languages including Telugu, Tamil, English, Kannada, Malayalam, and Hindi, found his way into Anita's children's book *Bipathu and a Very Big Dream*. "Prakash played a character called Maash in 'The Little Duck Girl'. The character had so much life that I couldn't abandon him and I brought him into *Bipathu* as well."

Survival instinct

Bengaluru, Prakash says is beautiful and free. "There is also politics, crime syndicates, and drugs. The city has different layers, it's an animal which can survive. Some things go extinct, while others stay relevant. The Bangalore I see in Anita's books is real, tangible and true."

Hot Stage, comes nearly seven years after 2016's *Chain of Custody*. "I hadn't intended for such a long gap," says Anita. "In fact, right after *Eating Wasps* (2018), I had started researching the next book. When I realized that there was a certain predictability about the theme I had chosen for book 3, I started afresh. Gowda had to wait a bit, which was great as it allowed me to intensify the scope and depth of research."

Time frame

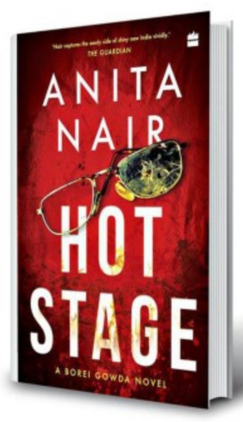
Hot Stage is set towards the end of 2012. *Cut Like Wound*, set in the busy Shivajinagar area features a vicious serial killer. "That book was set in August-September 2011. It was followed by *Chain of Custody*, which was set in April 2012." Anita says she wanted to ensure a six-month gap between each novel. "To make sure Gowda has a few more cases to handle before he retires."

Gowda is 51 and an ACP in *Hot Stage*. "Gowda knows that he can do nothing to change the system striated with corruption, power and greed but deep within the cynic that he is, exists an idealist who still believes in law and justice. Despite all the murkiness caused by politics on the world of law enforcement, he still believes he can make a difference."

Anita says she does not think too far ahead vis-à-vis a finite number of books featuring the gruff intelligent Gowda. "Now that three books are done, the fourth is hovering in the back of my mind." There will be no prequels for Gowda, Anita says. "Gowda's life until *Cut Like Wound* doesn't excite me as a writer."

Series versus standalone

A series character, Anita says, unlike a standalone one, has a life and impact that cannot be contained within one book. "I did not set out to write a series but as I drew to the middle of *Cut Like Wound*, I realized that I needed several books to capture Gowda's mind and being."



Many hygiene checks are required for a series character, Anita says. "My character can't contradict his personality from book to book without a sound reason. The integrity of the character has to be retained in each book without it being repetitive or tedious."

Matters of the heart

For all who have been holding their breath about the direction of the relationship between Gowda and the sophisticated Urmila, Anita says she cannot see it going very far. "Gowda's priority is his work and even someone as understanding as Urmila will eventually grow tired of being taken for granted."

Physically, the Gowda universe centres around the Cantonment region, Anita says, even though Gowda grew up in south Bengaluru. "He chooses to live in the north east end of the city almost as if he wants to put the city between who he once was and who he is now. As for his team, including the feisty ASI Ratna who Gowda might groom as his spiritual successor, they have become a well-synchronized unit over the last 18 months. There is genuine affection between them."

In a crime novel, character is as important as the plot, Anita says. "The moment the writer recognizes this, the novel moves into a higher plane where the character and plot complement each other."

Joining the high table

There are crime novels set in Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata. Bengaluru seems to have grown to join the high table with Harini Nagendra's period novels set in 1920s Bangalore, Anuja Chauhan's *The Fast and the Dead* and Zac O Yeah's Hari Majestic novels.

"Gowda is synonymous with Bangalore and he thinks in Kannada and English depending on who he is with. The city it once was and the city it is now. The city and its secrets add to the narrative in a way that wouldn't be the same if the Gowda series was set in another city. I am toying with sending Gowda to another part of Karnataka, briefly, of course!"

Always learning

The novels are a journey of discovery in more ways than one. "Gowda novels keep throwing up interesting facets about the city I have called home for the last 24 years. Everything from dialects to bar snacks or sides as they are called reveals itself. The Tegulu (a combination of Tamil and Telugu) dialect was one such discovery. The Kannada writer, Vasudendra, was telling me that the Tegulu-speaking people were first brought to Bangalore by Hyder Ali as gardeners and who because of their strong physiques were also used in combat by him."

Cities seem to lend themselves to a crime novel. "While villages in some ways are open books, cities are like Russian dolls with secrets within secrets. Unlike a village where the population is fairly homogenous, cities have people from different parts of the country and the world and hence the nature of crime becomes more complex. Also, there is a certain anonymity in cities that make crime undetectable at first."

Nothing has come to fruition on Gowda's on-screen avatar yet, says Anita. "Gowda is an extremely complex character and Bangalore essential in the filming. As we speak, my film agent is in talks and so fingers crossed. Meanwhile *Ladies Coupe* (2001) has been optioned by a major production house."

CITYBEATS

Dragon dining

It's the Chinese Year of the Dragon and Foo is going all out to ring in the year with prosperity. From the jade togarashi roll of yam bean, pickled jalapeno and creamy avocado, to a range of dumplings and Fortune Rice, each dish symbolises good fortune, with luscious desserts and fortune cookies round up the experience.

On till February 10 at all Foo outlets, Call 97420 44747 for reservations

Midweek reprieve

Aloft Bengaluru Outer Ring Road has introduced an Asian dinner buffet every Wednesday. The cuisines on offer span the entire Orient and not only includes dishes from China, Japan, Korea and Thailand, but also other nations. The buffet promises to be a culinary experience for first timers and connoisseurs.

Every Wednesday from 7pm to 11pm, starting at ₹1899.

Eggless delights

The classic banana pudding has been added to the list of Magnolia Bakery's eggless delights. This vanilla pudding layered with bananas and wafers, joins other desserts such as the chocolate pudding parfait, blueberry jamboree, strawberry cream cheese bar and strawberry cake slice, on the eggless bandwagon.

Available at all Magnolia Bakery Outlets and on Swiggy/Zomato

Shining a spotlight on women in the food industry

Sangeetha Devi Dundoo

Feminine touch Anusha Didige and her team (left), Bengaluru's Thankamma Williams of Judith Caterers. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Anyone who cooks at home on a daily basis is a chef, comments Shruti Nayar, head chef at Kochi-based French Toast Bakery, Kitchen & Studio, in *The Otherside*, a documentary film directed by Hyderabad-based Anusha Didige. The 92-minute multilingual documentary presents stories of women in the food and beverage industry in South India. The film does not limit itself to documenting the journeys of those who founded or are associated with upscale restaurants, bars and kitchens; it includes a floor manager at a chocolate factory, canteens and mess owners across Hyderabad, Kochi, Ernakulam, Bengaluru and Puducherry.

The Otherside was screened for a select audience in Hyderabad recently and plans are on to host screenings in different cities and reach out to those in the food and beverage industry. Anusha and her team are also in the process of submitting the film to international film festivals and pitching to digital streaming platforms as well as travel and food television networks.

Straddling cinema and F&B

Anusha has had a taste of cinema and the F&B industry for more than eight years. She worked as an associate production designer with Lata Naidu for Telugu films *Ee Nagaraniki Emaindi* and *U-Turn*, and later pursued diploma in direction at Prague Film School. "I knew that whenever I direct a film, I would like to look at a film from an art director's point of view," she says, and mentions iconic names such as Wes Anderson and Sanjay Leela Bhansali as an inspiration.

The Otherside takes viewers into kitchens of restaurants, bars and canteens to give us ample behind-the-scenes perspectives. Anusha concedes that the idea for the film emerged when she watched the 2018 Canadian documentary *The Heat: A Kitchen (R)evolution* and resonated with what the women chefs had to say. Anusha has had a first-hand experience of the F&B industry when she worked alongside her brother Rohit Didige to partake in the operations of a bar and kitchen named 'The Otherside', in Jubilee Hills. "He wanted me to take decisions and never treated me as a secondary entity. However, those around me would say that I was helping my brother. Such comments would make me feel that women in this industry need to be given more credit."

The Otherside bar and kitchen wound up pre-pandemic and Anusha reckons it was heartbreaking for the siblings. She was in her mid 20s then and it had been one of her passion projects. Soon, she took a deep dive into her other passion – cinema – and worked on documentaries and advertising films.

The starting point

In August 2020, Anusha thought it was time to do her own documentation of women in the food business. She had a few caveats – that an establishment should be at least a year old and she did not to only focus on high profile restaurants and chefs. She also stayed clear of the vast baking segment: "I did not have the bandwidth to delve into it at that point."

The film went on floors in Hyderabad in November 2020 and eventually expanded to include women in the food business in other cities. Friends in Puducherry, Kerala and Bengaluru helped her forge connections; her pitch video acted as an ice breaker.

As the cameras began to roll, the women began opening up and sharing their journeys – what prompted them to set up business, how they hired workforce and how they scaled up. The largely women-led crew made the interviewees comfortable. *The Otherside* was filmed by cinematographers Sraiyanti H and Premkrishna Akkattu, edited by Meera Sankar and Pooja Sampath worked as the executive producer.

"The film is not about the fun and glory of the industry but literally the lesser known side," says Anusha. Arati Rao Shetty of Bengaluru-based B Flat discloses how they were initially making losses and yet strived to pay musicians who performed at the bar; she mentions how newspaper event listings and previews came in handy to spread the word and gradually music bands began to directly get in touch with her while planning their India tours.

'Chechi' Thankamma Williams of Judith Caterers in Bengaluru shares her journey of packing lunches for offices, a few at a time, to catering to students and staff of Mount Carmel College and scaling up the company to employ more than 85 and cater to campuses and offices in different locations.

Nishita, founder of Hyderabad-based Hashi, talks about the irony of running a sushi place while personally not enjoying seafood. She also recounts how she saw a few regular customers developing a taste for complex flavours of sushi with time.

All in a day

Rosie, who runs a mirchi bajji and bread pakoda stall in Secunderabad, details having to rough it out in the initial days; one of the challenges was staving off drunk men who would try to create nuisance near the *bandi*.

The F&B segment, says Anusha drawing from her experience, can get extremely lonely as one clocks in 14-16 hours a day at work.

Her immediate focus is to take *The Otherside* to as many people as possible. The journey has just begun.

CRPF detail will not deter protests: CPI(M)

Centre rushing paramilitary cover for Governor incenses ruling LDF in Kerala, which finds the move dubious and politically motivated; M.V. Govindan denies that the SFI activists had ambushed the Governor's vehicle in Kollam, says Khan has violated the VIP security protocol

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The politically fraught controversy regarding Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) security for Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan has metastasised to a broader debate on the jurisdictional boundaries of the Union and State governments and foundational principles of cooperative federalism.

The Centre's contentious decision to rush Central paramilitary cover for Mr. Khan on the premise that the Raj Bhavan found the State law enforcement's protection perilously wanting has incensed the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF). The LDF inferred that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Union government seemed more motivated by the political optics of its "high-profile and drastic response" than the "impromptu" measure's legal effectiveness or federal implications.

The LDF felt that Mr. Khan cried wolf to portray the State as one overrun by violent Left-wing mobs abetted by the police.

The factual predicate that informed the Centre's move to rush the CRPF for Mr. Khan's proximate security seemed dubious and politically motivated, according to the LDF.

Arif Mohammed Khan addressing the media under the CRPF's security cover in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday. S. MAHINSHA

Mr. Khan has since denied that he had sought CRPF protection from the Centre.

'Protocol breached'

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] has dug in its heels in the spat with Mr. Khan.

State secretary M.V. Govindan told reporters on the sidelines of the party's central committee meeting in Thiruvananthapuram that the CRPF deployment would not deter protests against Mr. Khan.

He denounced Mr. Khan's claim that the Students Federation of India (SFI) activists had ambushed his vehicle in Kollam on Friday.

Mr. Govindan accused Mr. Khan of exiting his car in breach of VIP security protocol, confronting protesters up close and acting as an agent provocateur for the BJP.

He said Mr. Khan's 'antics' would not electorally aid the BJP in the Lok Sabha elections in Kerala.

LDF convener E.P. Jayarajan said that Mr. Khan prompted the BJP-led Union government to take on a policing role in the State, a job not envisaged in the Constitution.

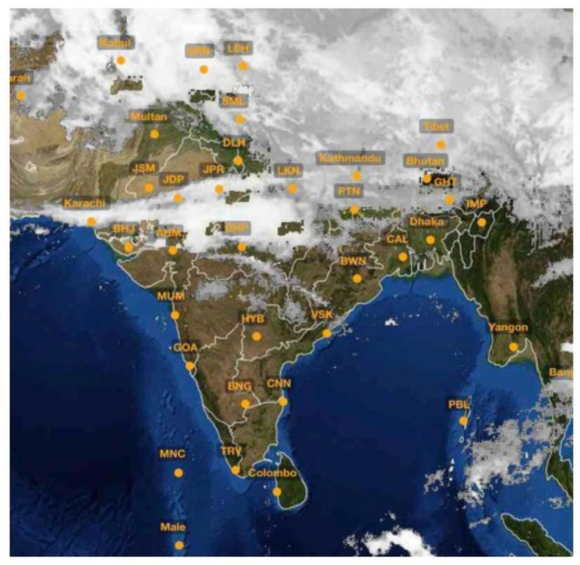
A list of names

On Friday, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan took an oblique dig at Mr. Khan by reading out the names of RSS leaders with CRPF protection in Kerala.

Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan took umbrage and said Mr. Vijayan conveniently glossed over the names of SNDP leader Vellappally Natesan and spiritual leader Mata Amritanandamayi, who have CRPF protection. He slammed Mr. Vijayan for allegedly portraying the storied paramilitary force as a political arm of the Centre.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Dense to very dense fog very likely in some parts over Uttar Pradesh; in isolated pockets of Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana. Cold day conditions in isolated pockets over Uttarakhand and Bihar. Cold wave conditions very likely in isolated pockets of West Bengal and Sikkim.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	25.6	8.8	Kozhikode	—	34.8	24.3
Ahmedabad	—	31.1	12.3	Kurnool	—	33.4	20.2
Aizawl	—	23.8	8.4	Lucknow	—	18.2	8.0
Allahabad	—	23.6	7.4	Madurai	—	33.5	21.6
Bengaluru	—	28.5	17.5	Mangaluru	—	33.3	22.0
Bhopal	—	28.3	10.4	Mumbai	—	33.0	20.7
Bhubaneswar	—	29.6	15.1	Mysuru	—	30.0	—
Chandigarh	—	17.9	7.0	New Delhi	—	16.9	8.4
Chennai	—	30.5	25.5	Patna	—	21.4	7.0
Coimbatore	—	31.2	21.2	Port Blair	25.0	29.6	22.8
Dehradun	—	18.5	5.8	Puducherry	—	30.7	25.4
Gangtok	—	13.4	4.5	Pune	—	33.6	17.4
Goa	—	33.6	20.7	Raipur	—	28.6	13.2
Guwahati	—	24.2	10.6	Ranchi	—	25.5	9.2
Hubballi	—	33.0	17.0	Shillong	—	13.6	4.0
Hyderabad	—	29.8	17.0	Shimla	—	17.4	7.3
Imphal	—	21.9	4.6	Srinagar	—	8.9	3.3
Jaipur	—	25.0	12.5	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.1	22.4
Kochi	—	32.4	24.2	Tiruchi	—	33.1	21.6
Kohima	—	12.5	4.5	Vijayawada	—	30.4	22.0
Kolkata	—	23.7	12.9	Visakhapatnam	—	28.7	22.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.14	.14	.34	246	154	
Bengaluru	.17	.11	.6	64	100	
Chennai	1	.28	.62	267	166	
Delhi	.13	.42	.45	453	410	
Hyderabad	7	.34	.53	148	—	
Kolkata	.17	.97	.19	269	131	
Lucknow	9	.53	102	308	235	
Mumbai	—	.19	.76	238	225	
Pune	4	.33	.21	156	132	
Visakhapatnam	.13	.30	.28	—	118	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hanumangarh, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 392 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Naharlagun, Arunachal Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Drought relief: BJP to protest in Kolar today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Taking exception to the delay in providing compensation to farmers towards crop losses on account of drought, the Opposition BJP is set to stage a protest demonstration in Kolar on Monday with a theme 'Either give compensation to farmers or quit'.

Announcing this at a press conference in Bengaluru on Sunday, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok said though Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had announced drought relief for farmers even before the commencement of the legislature session in Belagavi, the compensation was yet to reach them.

Accusing the Chief Minister of hoodwinking farmers, he said BJP workers would lay a siege to the Deputy Commissioner's office in Kolar to protest this.

He said the party would also stage a protest in Doddaballapur on Tuesday against power cuts and abrupt stopping of important works.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah regrets referring to President in the singular

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The episode of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah referring to President Droupadi Murmu in the singular while sympathising with her at a convention of the oppressed communities in Chitradurga drew sharp criticism from JD(S) State president H.D. Kumaraswamy who urged the Governor to sack him though the CM later expressed regret over his remark.

Earlier, while alleging that the President had been kept away from the inauguration of new Parliament building and Ram Mandir consecration event, Mr. Siddaramaiah on Sunday spoke sympathetically towards her but referred to her in the singular. Soon after Mr. Kumaraswamy's criticism, the CM offered his regret over the remark. "I referred to the President in the singular by mistake as I got emotional when recalling that she had not been invited to the inauguration of the Ram temple. I regret it," he said.

He made it clear that it was a practice for people like him who came from villages to refer to the elders, including parents, in the singular. However, it was not disrespect, he said, while stating that he had a lot of respect towards the President.

HDK's demand

Earlier, Mr. Kumaraswamy said such a reference showed the mindset of the Chief Minister for allegedly insulting the President – a woman who represents the oppressed classes.

"He is not fit to continue in his post. He should resign otherwise, the Governor should sack him for his uncharitable remarks on the first citizen. Mr. Siddaramaiah, who behaves like an advocate and constitutional expert, has insulted the first citizen coming from the oppressed class at the convention for the oppressed classes."

He should be ashamed of himself for addressing the President in the singular. "Is it how a Chief Minister addresses the President at a public function? He has insulted India and its Constitution," he alleged.

Cool as cucumber

Splashing water: Indian White-eye birds cool themselves on a hot day in Bengaluru on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Literature a strong medium to unite society: Vijayan at International Lit Fest

The Hindu Bureau
THRISSUR

Literature is the strongest medium that will unite human beings. The International Literature Festival of Kerala will be a celebration of humanity, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has said. He was virtually inaugurating the seven-day International Literature Festival of Kerala (ILFK) that opened at the Kerala Sahitya Akademi here on Sunday with the theme "Literature, culture and progress". The festival has been organised by the Akademi along with the State Cultural Department.

"The festival is meant for the cultural renaissance of society. It has been represented by world, Indian and regional writers. Poets from war-toned Palestine and conflict-zone of Manipur are participating in the festival to share their pains and concerns. Literature has acted like a medicine at times when the world went through conflicts. The festival will set a new page in the Kerala's literary world," he said.

Pinarayi Vijayan virtually inaugurates the seven-day International Literature Festival of Kerala in Thrissur on Sunday. K.K. NAJEEB

Revenue Minister K. Rajan, who presided over the function, released the festival bulletin. Minister for Higher Education R. Bindu released the festival book.

Around 500 writers, critics and social activists will attend the 100-odd sessions, which will be held at four venues on the Akademi campus and Thrissur Town Hall in the coming days. A book festival with participation of 100-odd publishers is also under way at Town Hall.

Addressing the function, actor-activist Prakash Raj said, "Many people asked me if it right to waste money to hold such a literature festival when there is lot of poverty in society?"

TDP MP takes break from full-time politics

V. Raghavendra
VIJAYAWADA

Jayadev Galla

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) MP from Guntur, Jayadev Galla, on Sunday announced a break from full-time politics citing that he needed to focus on his family and business affairs. He alleged that his businesses were under the scanner of various investigating agencies and that phones were being tapped as he was vocal about various public issues.

Mr. Jayadev said he has not been able to speak against the Centre due to "political limitations" and against the State due to "business limitations".

Another reason he cited for his decision to quit active politics was an increase in the responsibilities to manage his businesses since his father, Galla Ramachandra Naidu, quit the chairman post of Amara Raja Group, about two years ago.

Mr. Jayadev said it became difficult for him to keep sailing on two boats, – his Membership of the Lok Sabha and the role he was bound to play at Amara Raja Group of industries since his father's retirement – and that he had also not been comfortable with the way things were going on in politics.

In a first, laughing gull spotted in India

The migratory bird travelled thousands of kilometres from North America to the Chittari estuary in Kasaragod district of Kerala; experts confirm the finding by birdwatcher C. Sreekanth

The Hindu Bureau
KASARAGOD

Laughing gull, a migratory bird from North America, has been sighted for the first time in the country at the Chittari estuary in Kasaragod district.

C. Sreekanth, a birdwatcher and schoolteacher, spotted the bird and photographed it. The bird, known for its unique laughter-like calls, has travelled thousands of kilometres from North America to the coastal region of the State.

Amidst a multitude of birds in the estuary, including lesser black-backed gull, slender-billed gull, brown-headed gull, great crested, lesser crested tern, Caspian tern and others, he noticed a smaller bird with black beak. It was smaller than the brown-headed gull.

Laughing gull spotted at the Chittari estuary. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"Upon closer examination, it was found that the bird has a dark upper part, black legs, long drooping bill, and a dark smudge on the back of the head, confirming it to be a laughing gull," he said. He then reached out to J. Praveen, Chief Editor, Indian Birds, Journal of South Asian Ornithology, and birding experts G. Jinu, John Garret, Aident Kiley, and Hans Larsson, who confirmed this finding. The e-Bird application, dedicated to collecting scientific bird information, played a vital role in disseminating this finding. This discovery elevates the total number of bird species found in India to 1,367, with Kasaragod district contributing 400 species to the State's count of 554.

Mr. Sreekanth has 20 years of birdwatching experience. He has previously spotted the Asian house martin at Paithalmala in Kannur.

The laughing gull's presence in Kasaragod adds a new chapter to the region's rich biodiversity.

Rescue operation on for tiger in Eluru range

T. Appala Naidu
ELURU

The Nagarjunasagar Srisailam Tiger Reserve (NSTR) experts on Sunday launched an operation to rescue an adult male tiger that was first sighted in a maize field in the Eluru forest range in Andhra Pradesh on January 26.

A few days ago, the tiger reportedly left its natural habitat of Papikonda National Park and was stranded nearly 40 km away from it. State Chief Wildlife Warden A.K. Naik and Rajamahendravaram Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF) Y. Srinivasa Reddy monitored the launch of the rescue operation in Mandooru-Medinavaripalem area in the Eluru range.

"We have launched the rescue operation for the adult tiger. It is primarily aimed at driving the big cat back to its natural habitat. We are also preparing to tranquilise the tiger, if the situation warrants," Mr. Srinivasa told *The Hindu*. The Forest Department urged the district officials and the police to alert the people about the movement of the tiger. By Sunday evening, it appeared to be on its way back to its natural habitat, he added.

"The lone tiger has been on the move and walked about five km in the past two days. A few water sources are also available along the present route of the tiger which is now nearly 30 km away from its natural habitat," Eluru District Forest Officer Ravindra Dhama said.

Ceremony, substance

India and France built on past agreements in a show of symbolism

Given the circumstances behind the invitation to the French President Emmanuel Macron, his visit to India last week was always going to be more about symbolism and ceremony than about substance. Mr. Macron, the sixth French President to grace the Republic Day celebrations, stepped into the breach when U.S. President Joseph Biden declined the invitation. In addition, India and France had in 2023 already sealed a number of agreements as they marked 25 years of their strategic partnership – a year that saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Macron meet a number of times. Not only had the two countries already announced a fairly ambitious "Horizon 2047" relationship road map but they had also stated plans for joint production of military hardware, cutting-edge technology transfers and new purchase deals for French aircraft, engines and submarines. Diplomats had their work cut out for them with the two sides having to prepare for the Republic Day visit with little time to spare, and with so many agreements already announced. Many even speculated whether India had "missed an opportunity" to extend invitations to other partners including from the South Asian neighbourhood or Global South, rather than getting a much-invited France.

As a result, it is understandable that many of the agreements announced after the Modi-Macron meeting in Jaipur, and their time together watching the Republic Day Parade, were essentially built on the road map. These included the "Defence industrial" road map, meant to expand on plans for the two countries to co-design, co-develop and co-produce defence hardware in the air, on land and sea, as well as a space-defence partnership. In addition, the two sides signed MoU documents on agriculture, digital health and science and technology cooperation. An assembly-line manufacture of civilian helicopters (Airbus-Tata) was a first, but a private B2B deal. The two sides also issued a joint statement on regional and international developments. India has been unable to find such common ground with other partners including the U.S. and Russia on these issues but was able to take shared positions with France on the condemnation of terror attacks in Israel, the need for humanitarian assistance in Gaza and Ukraine, and concerns over the Red Sea attacks. While they did not demonstrate progress in other areas of cooperation, including big ticket defence hardware deals being negotiated, nuclear cooperation for the long-delayed power project in Jaitapur and for small modular reactors, it is clear that each is a work in progress, demonstrating the continuity in a partnership built on a mutual respect for strategic autonomy, which Mr. Macron said at the presidential banquet was also driven by their shared commitment to "tradition and innovation".

Momentous ruling

Israel must comply with ICJ's order to prevent genocide, step up aid in Gaza

Despite the absence of an explicit call for a ceasefire, the ruling handed down by the International Court of Justice is a momentous one that binds Israel to its obligation to prevent acts of genocide in its ongoing military operations in Gaza. The UN's highest judicial body has spelt out provisional measures after finding that "at least some of the acts and omissions alleged by South Africa to have been committed by Israel in Gaza appear to be capable of falling within the provisions of the [Genocide] Convention". South Africa, which took on the extraordinary responsibility of making Israel accountable for its violations of humanitarian law, stands vindicated as the ICJ accepted its standing to approach the court and found its preliminary submissions tenable. The ICJ has directed Israel to take effective and immediate measures to ensure humanitarian assistance and basic services to Gaza. While Israel and its allies highlight the absence of an order to stop military action, it cannot be ignored that the order is tailored to achieving the objective of preventing genocide, a term that includes killing members of the targeted group, Palestinians, in this case causing serious bodily and mental harm to them and deliberately inflicting on them conditions of life aimed at bringing about the group's physical destruction. The order is a moral and legal indictment of Israel for bombing health facilities, designated safe areas, and densely populated areas.

That most of the provisional measures were favoured by a 15-2 majority shows a high degree of consensus on steps to prevent genocide. A blanket order for cessation of hostilities may have been divisive – not many may agree that there can be no military response to a terrorist attack by non-state armed actors – and render it easy to ignore. The order makes it difficult for Israel to choose a policy of deliberate non-compliance. The world should goad Israel into complying with the measures, while carrying out legitimate military operations. Its leaders should avoid statements that may be seen as inciting genocide. The part of the ruling that asks for a report in one month on steps taken to implement the measures can only mean that Israel has to demonstrate progress on the extent of humanitarian aid it has permitted. An unfortunate development, with a suspicious immediacy after the ICJ order, is the suspension of global aid to the UNRWA, based on an Israeli allegation that 12 staffers were involved in the October 7 attack. This is no time to defund or wind down humanitarian work in Gaza even as a probe into their role is necessary.

The year commences, but with deep foreboding

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

Seldom has a new year commenced with such deep foreboding as 2024. Both the geopolitical and domestic outlook appear distinctly unfavourable. Predicting how much worse the situation could become as the year advances could, however, be hazardous.

The war in Ukraine, while stalemated at present, is set to enter a new phase. Since neither side appears ready for peace talks or negotiations, the danger is that one side or the other might be tempted to escalate matters in their favour by resorting to still more dangerous weapons available in their armoury, not excluding nuclear. It is obvious that neither Russia nor Ukraine (plus the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) can afford to be seen as having been forced to retreat – for if Russia is compelled to step back, not only would it mean the humbling of Russia *per se* but it would also signal a major victory for the West. If, on the other hand, Ukraine (plus NATO) is compelled to accept peace on Russia's terms, it would comprehensively alter the politics of Europe. Key questions would thereafter arise about the very utility of NATO as a bulwark against aggression.

West Asia is the greater worry

It is the situation in West Asia that is cause for greater alarm. The Israel-Hamas conflict has resurrected many fires that had plagued the region previously. The conflict is getting further enlarged as the Iran-Pakistan stand-off in recent weeks has demonstrated. It could well set-off a 'prairie fire' across the region, which would have consequences for much of the world.

Iran is, in the meantime, displaying an aggressive mien, and Arab monarchies are preparing for the worst. Iran is encouraging the Houthis in Yemen to attack United States and foreign ships, while engaging in open warfare with both Iraq, and of late, Pakistan; Iran is also accusing Pakistan of instigating terror groups located within their country to attack Iranian targets. The outcome is that West Asia which has always had a cornucopia of problems, is beginning to see many of them come alive. U.S. diplomacy, which has been largely confined to steps such as sending its Sixth Fleet to the region, is making little impression. The absence of purposeful diplomacy means that the situation can only worsen.

The Indo-Pacific region may appear less incendiary as of now, but there are several underlying tensions that could turn the situation explosive during the year. The elections in Taiwan have produced an anti-China dispensation, whose leader Lai Ching-te is on record stating that his mission is to defend Taiwan from intimidation from China and protect its democratic way of life. China is least likely to take kindly to this, though it may not be provoked into taking any pre-emptory steps just yet.

Nevertheless, an 'anti-Main Land China Government' in Taiwan could well act as a lightning rod. Many countries in east Asia such as the Philippines, may feel encouraged to display a more aggressive mien in their disputes with China over territories lying within the First and Second Island Chains. This could provoke China, thus raising the stakes for everyone in the East Asia and Indo-Pacific regions. The area is already being touted as one of the main areas of strategic contestation between the U.S. and China, and, hence, could bring in the U.S. to stake its claims. The consequential result would be heightened tension across the region, involving many countries of East and Southeast Asia, not excluding India.

As far as India is concerned, the geopolitical and domestic outlook appear distinctly unfavourable

India's problems, external and internal

All this also suggests that 2024 may not see any lowering of tensions between India and China, including on the issue of the disputed border between the two countries. China may remain preoccupied with several of its other concerns, but India cannot but maintain a strict vigil as far as the China-Indian border is concerned. Not to be lost sight of also is the fact that despite China's economic difficulties, the West's aggressive wooing of India at this time may well provoke China into taking measures that could result in the humbling of India in the eyes of the world. Hence, heightened vigil is called for against any possible manoeuvre on China's part.

India may also be required this year to spruce up its relationship with some of its neighbours. Any simulation of 'wolf-warrior diplomacy' of the kind practised by China, would not suit India when it comes to its neighbours such as the Maldives. India must adhere to its traditional policy of maintaining excellent relations with all countries, specially those in the South Asian region. Bhutan falls into a special category and will need close attention. Every effort needs to be made in 2024 to strengthen relations with Bhutan which is being aggressively wooed by China.

The global outlook notwithstanding, India may face its share of internal problems in 2024. Elections are scheduled to be held in the middle of the year, and though the results, ipso facto, may not provoke any problems, there could be other issues. The build up to the elections and the immediate aftermath could become a problem. A feature of the forthcoming elections is the strong veneer of religiosity that pervades the campaign propaganda of certain groups, unlike that in many previous elections. More to the point: an impression exists that this election is in the mould of a 'do or die struggle', leaving little scope for any 'give or take', which is greatly inflaming passions across the spectrum.

In popular imagination, the Ramjanmabhoomi issue and the installation of Ram's idol in Ayodhya have currently become intertwined with the ruling dispensation's election campaign. Further, the current campaign rhetoric across all parties is not helping matters. It is contributing to a sharp cleavage among the electorate along religious and other lines, a consequence of which could be heightened communal tensions following the elections. It is imperative, after the elections, that care is taken to see that the situation does not get out of hand.

Apart from the communal aspect, close attention may also need to be paid to some of the other problems that had plagued India in the past, but have remained dormant. Manipur is a case in point, *viz.*, that peace in the Northeast cannot be taken for granted. Apart from Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Assam, especially the last named with the United Liberation Front of Assam's anti-talk faction again raising its head need close attention. On the mainland, left-wing extremist activity has declined of late, but should not be ignored since its underpinnings and its ability to resort to violent attacks in some of the mainland States of the country remain. Internal security during 2024 will, thus, demand heightened vigilance.

Parliament's functioning

The year 2024 could also be the year of reckoning for India's Parliament. Much more than damage control may be needed. The final weeks of Parliament in 2023 had witnessed an unfortunate series of events that besmirched India's record as an upholder of parliamentary traditions. First, came the lamentable incident where Parliament security was breached by two outsiders. The sequel to this was an unprecedented stand-off between the Opposition and the ruling party, followed by the suspension of 146 members of both Houses. In the surcharged atmosphere that might prevail after the elections, many more efforts of this kind to stall parliamentary proceedings may well occur. It is important that after the new Parliament is convened, House leaders of all parties ensure the smooth conduct of Parliament. One of the fundamental responsibilities of Parliament is to protect constitutionally guaranteed liberties, and if an elected Parliament fails to do this, it would deal a mortal blow to the nation.

If the situation does not improve even after a new Parliament is convened, it would only provide ammunition to opponents of parliamentary democracy. This, then, could well become the key issue in 2024. It is vitally important, and necessary, to reinforce the unambiguous understanding that Parliament is fundamental to the functioning of democracy as we have known it.

A closer look at Myanmar's discontent

Krishnan Srinivasan

is a former Foreign Secretary

Sanjay Pulipaka

is Chairperson of the Politeia Research Foundation

In February, it will be three years since the army seized power in Myanmar, overthrowing a democratically elected government headed by Aung San Suu Kyi. The coup prompted a massive civil disobedience movement. The deposed members of parliament formed a National Unity Government that constituted the People's Defence Forces (PDFs) and called for an armed uprising. The fragile peace between major ethnic armed organisations and the military collapsed, as the former's objective of establishing federal democracy was no longer feasible under army dictatorship.

Last October, an alliance of the Arakan Army, Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, and Ta'ang National Liberation Army launched coordinated attacks on the military, and inflicted massive losses on the military in the Shan State. Paletwa town on the country's western borders, and a critical node in India's Kaladan project, is currently under the control of the Arakan Army. At the same time, the regions inhabited by the majority Bamar ethnic community, such as Sagaing, Bago and Magwe, also witnessed a significant spike in resistance, and the PDFs gained ground against the military.

Discontent and territorial loss

If one objective of the coup was to strengthen national unity, the Myanmar military has failed spectacularly. In fact, the military has conceded large tracts of territory to the ethnic armed organisations and PDFs. But losing control of territory to armed groups is not new for the army; the military has frequently lost ground to ethnic armed groups and the now defunct Communist Party of Burma, but subsequently recovered some of the losses.

It should be noted that when international sanctions were substantially diluted between 2010 and 2020, the military acquired air and army equipment. Numerous reports indicate that the coup leaders have used firepower even on unarmed civilians, resulting in significant internal displacement and neighbouring countries facing refugee crises. The reasons for losing territory now have less to do with military incapacity and more to do with growing popular discontent. Reports suggest that the military finds it difficult to recruit even from the regions dominated by Bamars, who constitute the bulk of army personnel. Since the coup, there have been sporadic reports of government officials, doctors, and police personnel assisting the resistance movement. In the past year, a fairly large number of military personnel have surrendered to the ethnic armed organisations and PDFs. A month ago, to evade an attack by the resistance groups, over 150 Myanmar soldiers moved into India and surrendered. There are reports of army officers served with severe punishment for failure to stop desertions, suggesting that military cohesion is coming under increasing stress.

With Myanmar politically fragmented, India needs to re-calibrate its policy

China and its interests

Given these circumstances, China has a multi-layered strategy to protect its interests. On international platforms, China robustly defends the Myanmar military from international censure. Simultaneously, various ethnic armed organisations on Myanmar's northern border have close relations with China, and it is unlikely that the uprising in Shan State, given its scale, could have happened without Chinese consent. It is rumoured that Beijing used the ethnic alliance to stamp out online scams and criminal syndicates that were fleecing millions from Chinese citizens. Having achieved its objectives, Beijing was able to get the rebels and the Myanmar army to agree to a ceasefire. With the momentum of the ethnic offensive stalled and the army not recovering lost territory, it is not certain how long this truce will last. Neither ethnic armed organisations nor the coup leaders will be comfortable with Beijing's ability to influence their operations.

The principal regional actor, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), has articulated a five-point consensus and denied the Myanmar military a place at its summits. Despite repeated efforts, the ASEAN special envoy to Myanmar was prevented from having meaningful interactions with all the relevant stakeholders. Therefore ASEAN has not been able to alter the trajectory of Myanmar's politics, but some ASEAN members are shunning their customary reticence and are now sharply critical of the Myanmar coup.

With a shared border of about 2,416 km, Thailand wields significant influence in Myanmar. Last year, Thailand's Foreign Minister not only interacted with Myanmar's military leadership but also with the imprisoned leader Aung San Suu Kyi. Thailand hosts and engages with Myanmar's exile organisations and, in the recent past, has made efforts to scale up its humanitarian assistance.

New Delhi's outreach

India could also consider a more proactive humanitarian approach to provide succour to displaced communities in Myanmar. Such an initiative could also reduce the inflow of refugees into India. In its engagement with Myanmar, India should factor in the three political realities.

First, discontent against the coup shows no signs of abating. The military often hinted at the possibility of conducting elections under proportional representation, but has failed to do so because of inability to ensure sufficient stability in the country.

Second, despite the absence of a charismatic leader and meaningful international support, resistance to the coup has demonstrated considerable resilience over the past years.

Third, Myanmar today is politically fragmented, with the military, ethnic armed organisations and PDFs having varying degrees of control in different parts of the country. The military seems to be losing more ground than gaining it. Perhaps it is time for India to re-calibrate its Myanmar policy after consultations with all the relevant stakeholders.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cadaveric bone donation

I write this letter as a retired (and first) Dean of the Kanyakumari Government Medical College, Tamil Nadu. Though common, there has hardly been any cadaveric bone donation (it aids quality of life and mobility) in recent years, particularly during the COVID-19 period. Contrary to perception, it is easy to do and does not result in disfigurement as only a portion of the bone is removed. The ribs, clavicle, iliac crest and the fibula are the bones most commonly removed in pieces and stored in a bone bank. When compared to organ donation, it is less expensive and time-consuming. According to data, 248 bone donations were made from 2018 to 2023.

Dr. Arunachalam,
Nagercoil, Tamil Nadu

***The Hindu* Lit Fest 2024**

The Hindu's literary conclaves have been fostering the forthright exchange of ideas. As such, the two-day event this year was a treasure trove as there were innovative activities, curated walks, workshops on storytelling, quizzes and contests. These on-ground literary engagements are sure to rekindle the dwindling reading habit among students and Gen Z as well. *The Hindu* should bring out a book on all the panel discussions.

G. Ramasubramanyam,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

Whatever be the profile or area of interest of the speakers, there was one unified message from them all — 'Excuse hate, please...Live to Love only!' Be it the food historian fighting fanaticism, the wizard of words engaging in verbal revelry, best-selling author-diplomats clarifying -theism or the 'isms', vocalists of Sangam poetry and every other literary genre making their point, and, public intellectuals dedicating a 'long thank you note' in the form of a literary memoir to behind-the-scenes real-life heroes who actually reshape the design of thought, the fest this year was just wonderful.

C. Anupama,
Chennai

Aadhaar-based pay a bad idea for MGNREGS

Chakradhar Buddha
is affiliated with LibTech India, a centre based in CORD

Anuradha De
is affiliated with LibTech India

Rajendran Narayanan
is affiliated with LibTech India. He also teaches in Azim Premji University, Bangalore

The views expressed by the authors are personal and do not reflect the views of the institutions they represent

On January 1, the Rural Development Ministry made Aadhaar-Based Payment Systems (ABPS) mandatory in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). This is after five deadline extensions by the Union government, disregarding several memorandums by workers to the Ministry to not make ABPS mandatory.

There are two modes of wage payments in MGNREGS: account-based and ABPS. For the first, wage transfers use the workers' name, bank account number, and the IFSC code of the bank branch. For ABPS, a few steps are minimally needed. First, a worker's Aadhaar number must be seeded with their job card, which means authenticating her job card details with the Aadhaar database. Authentication is successful only when all the details including spelling and gender in the job cards match with those in the Aadhaar database. Second, their Aadhaar must be linked to their bank account. Third, the Aadhaar number of each worker must be mapped correctly through their bank branch with a software mapper of the National Payments Corporation of India, which acts as a clearing house of ABPS. The Aadhaar number acts as the financial address and cash transferred gets deposited to the last Aadhaar-linked bank account. Incorrectness in any of the above steps for ABPS means that the worker is denied work, does not receive wages, or is not paid in their preferred account. Consequently, workers have to spend hundreds of rupees and lose several days of their livelihood to fix these technological glitches.

Evaluating claims

The government has claimed that ABPS would remove duplicate job cards, reduce wage payment delays, and have lower payment rejections. Aside from some uses in assessing duplicates, the other claimed reasons stand on questionable grounds. In fact, even the realities of deleting duplicates are fraught with errors. No publicly available audits on the procedures followed by officials in deleting job cards and the valid scientific assessment of the gains of such an exercise are available. On the contrary, two recently published research papers in Economic and Political Weekly show how officials have resorted to deleting job cards owing to pressure from the Union government to meet 100% of the Aadhaar seeding targets. Since different administrative units are involved in creating different documents in rural areas, spelling mismatches are common. Even UIDAI has certified that only the biometrics are correctly captured while the demographic details are left to the discretion of local officials. In their paper, Anjor Bhaskar, Arpita Sarkar and Preeti Singh present testimonies of officials who ascribe the reasons for such rampant deletions to the pressure to meet Aadhaar seeding targets. They also present strong evidence of exaggerated savings claims due to Aadhaar. In response to a question in the Lok Sabha, the Rural Development Ministry reported that there was a 247% increase in job card deletions in FY 2022-23 compared to previous years. In the last two years alone, job cards of over 7 crore workers got deleted. As per the government's own data, as on January 11, 2024, out of a total of 25.6 crore registered workers, only 16.9 crore workers are eligible for ABPS while all workers are eligible for account-based payments.

In a press release on January 1, 2024, the Ministry has tried to justify making ABPS mandatory in MGNREGA. No credible evidence supporting the decision was provided. Rather, it stated, among other things, that a working paper released by a public research and advocacy group-LibTech has been referred, which claims that there "is no significant gain with ABPS vis-à-vis bank account payments and it is just 3% more in case of ABPS... keeping the scale of Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, this 3% gain is also a very significant gain."

The design of Aadhaar-Based Payment Systems can be exclusionary resulting in violations of rights

Misrepresentation

We welcome that the MoRD has taken cognisance of this paper. But sadly it misrepresents the findings and incorrectly cites that the paper "endorses ABPS." Let us see why. Based on a sample of 3.2 crore wage transactions, the paper analyses if there is any statistically significant difference in the time to transfer wages using account-based payments and ABPS. If all the transactions using the two payment modes were considered and then one observed that ABPS was quicker than account-based by 3%, then the Rural Development Ministry's claims of 'gains' could be considered a talking point. But LibTech's study is based on a sample of 3.2 crore transactions. In a sample dataset, principles of statistical science dictates that only if the difference is statistically significant can we claim that one payment system is more efficient than the other. But the difference was not statistically significant, which provides evidence that the ABPS is not quicker than account-based payments.

The government has also claimed lower rejection rates in ABPS compared to account-based payments. The paper finds no statistically significant difference between the rejection rates in the two modes of payments either. In summary, the paper refutes the Ministry's repeated claims of higher efficiency in wage payments using ABPS. Timely payments is only a function of the government allocating adequate funds. With adequate funds, the time taken to pay workers will not be different whether it uses ABPS or account-based payments. The difficulties in resolving problems with ABPS far outweigh the difficulties in resolving problems with account-based payments and so we advocate for account-based payments.

Recognising a fact-checker

Tamil Nadu has sent out a message by conferring an award on Mohammed Zubair

STATE OF PLAY

B. Kolappan
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A *Tirukural* couplet effectively teaches us how to deal with misinformation and disinformation. The couplet goes, *Epporul Yaar Yaar Vaai Ketpinum Apporul Meiporul Kaanpathu Arivu* (the mark of wisdom is to discern the truth from the source).

By conferring the Kottai Ameer Communal Harmony Award for the year 2024 on Mohammed Zubair, fact-checker and the co-founder of *AltNews*, during the 75th Republic Day celebrations, the Tamil Nadu government has reiterated the need to prevent the spread of false information. Former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi had instituted the award in the name of Kottai Ameer, who fought for communal amity and fell victim to communal elements.

The award has been presented to Mr. Zubair just months after the State government set up an 80-member fact-check unit to deal with "misinformation and disinformation pertaining to the State government" emanating from "all media platforms". In constituting the unit, the Tamil Nadu government had taken a cue from the Karnataka government and the Centre's notification on the amendments to the Information Technology (IT) Rules of 2021, which allow the Ministry of Electronics and IT to appoint a similar fact-checking unit.

But many saw this as a retrograde step and fear that the ombudsman agency could end up infringing upon the freedom of the press and dictate news. Some political parties, too, did not approve of

the move. The principal opposition party in the State, the AIADMK, filed a public interest litigation petition before the Madras High Court questioning the competence of the State government in constituting a fact-check unit. The petitioner argued that it would be a dangerous tool in the hands of the government and have a chilling effect on free speech. The matter is now sub judice.

It was against this backdrop that the government presented the award to Mr. Zubair, as if to right a wrong and send a clear message about the need for filtering fake information. Mr. Zubair, a native of Denkanikottai in Tamil Nadu's Krishnagiri district, had launched the website Alt News in 2017 with Pratik Sinha, who, incidentally, a day after his colleague received the award, participated in a panel discussion of The Hindu Lit Fest 2024 with journalists N. Ram and Sreenivasan Jain. *AltNews* analyses the veracity of news shared on social media and debunks false claims and fake news. According to the Tamil Nadu government, his fact-checking mechanism prevented major violence in the State in 2023. When a video claiming that migrant workers from Bihar were being attacked in Tamil Nadu went viral on social media, Mr. Zubair published footage on his website to prove that the video was not taken in Tamil Nadu. This averted possible violence.

The other panel members felt that Mr. Sinha should also have been given the award. Mr. Jain, the co-author of the book *Love Jihad And Other Fictions*, pointed out during the Lit Fest the many instances of fake news that he has encountered as a journalist. For instance, a viral WhatsApp forward even claimed that there was no electricity in the fictional village in which the blockbuster movie *Sholay* (1975) was shot and Thakur, a Hindu character, roamed around in the dark even as the loudspeaker at the mosque came alive during the time of namaz. "This [claim was made] because the screenwriter of Sholay was Javed Akhtar, a Muslim," he said.

The DMK government headed by Chief Minister M.K. Stalin is often at the receiving end, especially on issues relating to the Hindu religion and gods, as he is perhaps the only leader in the country who relentlessly attacks the BJP government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. For instance, on the day of the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, BJP leaders, including Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi, launched an attack on the Tamil Nadu government accusing it of not permitting temples in the State to perform pujas and rituals to mark the consecration. Mr. Stalin and Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Minister P.K. Sekarbabu have regularly countered the BJP's campaign through statements, public addresses, and social media messages. In Tamil Nadu, there is even talk that the Information Department is working overtime to counter "fake news" instead of focusing on highlighting the government's "achievements".

Only 1% women screened for cervical cancer in India

Share of women screened for cervical cancer crosses 50% mark in many BRICS nations

DATA POINT

Elsa Sunny, Rebecca Rose Varghese & Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Only 1% of women are being screened for cervical cancer in India, despite the World Health Organization's recommendation that at least 70% of women should get tested. The share of women screened remains around the 1% mark for oral and breast cancer too.

Table 1 shows the share of women aged 15-49 who underwent specific screening tests for cancer in 2019-21, across States. The table shows that cancer screening did not cross the 10% mark for any type of cancer in any State.

However, many southern States and select States in the Northeast have shown initiative in testing more women. In Tamil Nadu, for instance, 7% of women said that they were screened for cervical cancer and 3.8% for breast cancer – the highest among the two types across States. Kerala, Mizoram, Manipur and Maharashtra also crossed the 1% mark under these two types. In Andhra Pradesh, 5% of women said that they were screened for oral cancer, the highest for this type of cancer across States. On the other hand, only 0.1% of women were screened for any type of cancer in West Bengal, the lowest in India. Gujarat too performed poorly with 0.2%.

Altogether in India, the share of women screened for cervical, breast, and oral cancer stood at 1.2%, 0.6% and 0.7%, respectively, as of 2019-21. In contrast, the share of women screened for cervical cancer in advanced economies such as Sweden, Ireland, the U.S. and the U.K. was more than 70%.

Even if only comparable economies were considered, India lagged far behind. **Chart 2** shows the share of women aged 30-49 who were screened for cervical cancer as of 2019 in BRICS nations. Russia led the list with 93%, followed by 58% in Brazil, and 52% in South Africa. In India, Egypt and Ethiopia, coverage was less than 5%.

A look at Tamil Nadu's data throws light on the way forward and some potential pain points. **Chart 3** shows that even in the State with the highest screening share, most tests were conducted among older women.

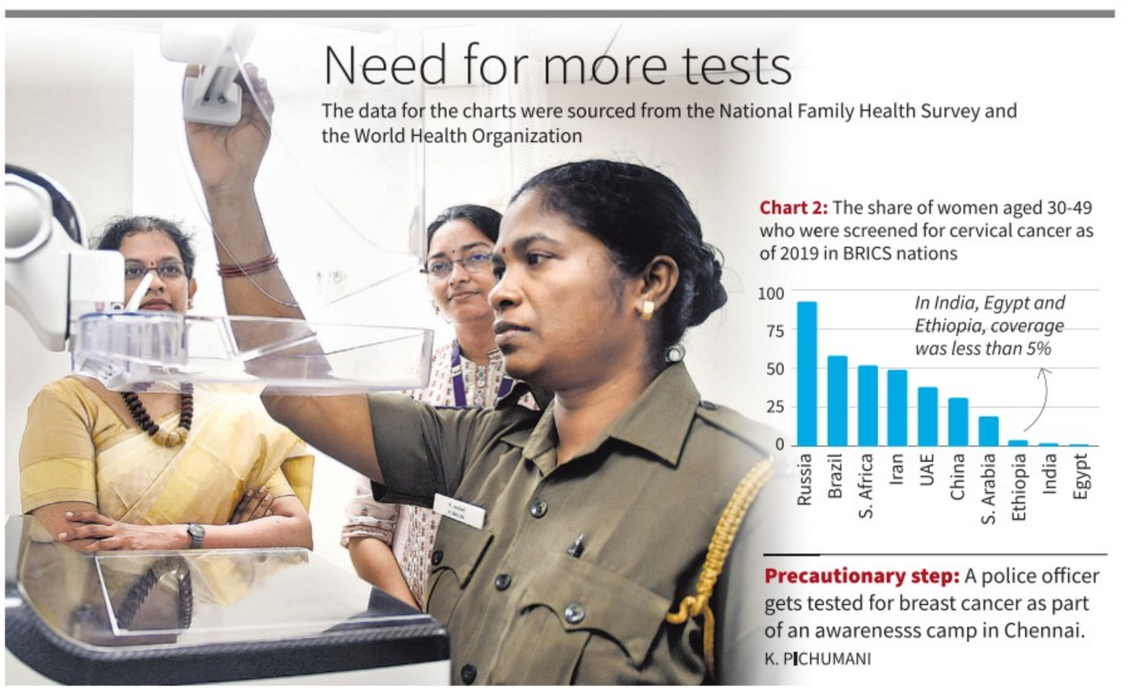
A recent survey published by Apollo Hospitals, which analysed 1.5 lakh of its health screenings in five years, found that 25% of breast cancer incidence occurred in women aged under 40 years in India. This stresses the importance of casting the net wide and encouraging younger women to get screened too.

Chart 4 shows the share of women screened for cervical cancer in Tamil Nadu, across various levels of schooling. Over 10% of women who completed less than five years and between five and seven years of schooling in Tamil Nadu were screened for cervical cancer. The share reduced considerably as the years of school education increased.

Chart 5 shows the share of women screened for cervical and breast cancer in Tamil Nadu, across social groups. The share of women screened from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes communities was higher compared to other communities.

Data from Charts 4 and 5 show how state intervention helped Tamil Nadu achieve respectable levels of screening. It shows that State-sponsored screening drives at government health centres makes cancer testing accessible to low income groups as well. It also shows that lack of awareness is not the only factor behind poor cancer detection, as higher education levels have not led to more screenings.

Elsa Sunny is a student at the Asian College of Journalism, Chennai



Precautionary step: A police officer gets tested for breast cancer as part of an awarenesss camp in Chennai. K. PICHUMANI

Table 1: The share of women aged 15-49 who underwent specific screening tests for cancer in 2019-21, across States

	Cervix	Breast	Oral
Punjab	1.9	0.3	0.4
UP	1	0.3	0.6
Himachal	0.7	0.3	0.3
Haryana	0.5	0.2	0.3
Delhi	0.4	0.2	0.7
J&K	0.3	0.2	0.6
Rajasthan	0.3	0.1	0.2
Uttarakhand	0.3	0.1	0.3
MP	0.7	0.5	0.7
Chhattisgarh	0.3	0.2	0.2
Odisha	0.7	0.1	0.2
Bihar	0.5	0.2	0.3
Jharkhand	0.4	0.1	0.2
WB	0.1	0.1	0.1
Mizoram	3.8	1.6	0.7
Manipur	1.3	1	0.6
Arunachal	0.7	0.3	0.4
Meghalaya	0.4	0.3	0.4
Sikkim	0.5	0.2	0.6
Tripura	0.4	0.3	0.4
Assam	0.2	0.2	0.2
Nagaland	0.2	0.2	0.3
Maharashtra	1.7	1	1
Goa	0.9	1	0.5
Gujarat	0.2	0.1	0.2

	Cervix	Breast	Oral
Tamil Nadu	7	3.8	0.9
Andhra	3.2	0.6	5
Kerala	2.3	1.5	0.5
Telangana	2.1	0.3	1.8
Karnataka	0.5	0.2	0.4
India	1.2	0.6	0.7

Chart 3: Share screened for breast cancer in Tamil Nadu, across age-groups

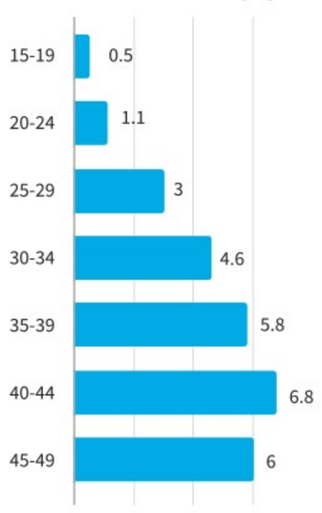


Chart 4: % tested for cervical cancer in TN, across years of schooling

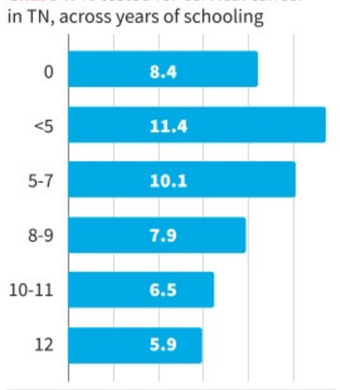


Chart 5: Share of women screened for cervical and breast cancer in Tamil Nadu, across social groups

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 29, 1974

No incident in Ahmedabad after Army take-over

Ahmedabad, Jan. 28: Ahmedabad, where Army took over law and order duties, remained calm to-day under indefinite curfew. Troops moved into the riot-torn textile city since last night and took over duties from the police and the B.S.F. shortly afternoon. The Gujarat Chief Minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, said since the army stepped in no incidents were reported in the city. The situation in other riot-affected towns in the State were also calm. Except Baroda and Ahmedabad, curfew had been lifted in all other affected towns. A Rajkot report, however, said a seven-hour curfew was being imposed from 10 p.m. Curfew in Baroda, as a precautionary measure, came into force at 6 p.m. The Chief Minister said the curfew would be relaxed in Ahmedabad for four hours to-morrow when foodgrains would be distributed in fair price shops. Mr. Patel said the situation in Rajpipla where three persons were killed in police firing, was also peaceful. The Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, he said, had agreed to sell rice to the State. An official had gone to Andhra Pradesh to buy 5,000 tonnes of rice. A military spokesman said Ahmedabad was "absolutely quiet" after the troops moved in. Maj. Gen. R.D.R Anand, GOC and Brig. A. Kaul, who is in charge of peace restoration, went round the city accompanied by the I.G. of Police Mr. P.M. Pant and the Police Commissioner, Mr. Eric Renison. The city was completely deserted by noon when the army took complete charge. A late night report, however, said 32 persons were arrested for breach of curfew to-day.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 29, 1924

Miscellaneous

The Managing Board of the National Residential High School has decided to open Intermediate Class in Science from next July, in case the Syndicate of Madras University would give necessary permission in time. The new college department will be located in the December Gardens, Elliot Beach Road, Adyar. The Secretary of the Viswa Bharathy of Dr. Rabindra Nath Tagore paid a visit to the College and school of the National University a few days back and was much impressed with the educational work done here.

From Page One

Nitish switches sides yet again, takes oath as CM

The new Cabinet comprises three members each from the BJP and JD(U), including eight-time BJP MLA from Gaya Prem Kumar, and senior JD(U) leaders Vijay Kumar Chaudhury, Bijendra Yadav and Shrawan Kumar, Independent MLA Sumit Kumar Singh, and Santosh Kumar Suman of the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular). After they were all sworn in, Mr. Kumar told presspersons that he would expand his Cabinet "soon".

His spurned ally, the RJD leader and former Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav, declared that "the game is not over yet...it has just started, and the JD(U) will be finished as a party in 2024 itself". He added: "I do whatever I say... People of the State are with us." His sister Rohini Acharya, a resident of Singapore, also made scathing social media posts criticising Mr. Kumar with oblique references. "Garbage goes back to the dustbin. Congratulations to the dustbin for getting the slinkiest garbage," she posted.

The BJP and JD(U) both held separate meetings of their legislature parties earlier in the day, and then joined up to present themselves as the new NDA bloc at the CM's official residence. Mr. Kumar then headed to the Raj Bhavan to make his claim to form the new NDA government. BJP national president J.P. Nadda was present at the swearing-in ceremony, along with alliance partners such as Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan, Rashtriya Lok Janata Dal leader Upendra Kushwaha, and HAM(S) leader Jitan Ram Manjhi.

'To prevent jungle raj'

These leaders have all been hammering Mr. Kumar on several issues; however, as they exited the ceremony, they claimed that the new government in Bihar has been formed for the "development of the State".

"To prevent the return of jungle raj in Bihar and for the development of the State, we decided to come along with Nitish Kumar*ji* when his proposal came to us," said Mr. Choudhury, the new Deputy CM. His fellow Deputy CM, Mr. Sinha, said he had put his faith in the PM.

"Whenever an NDA government was formed in Bihar, stability and pace in development have come in the State. Of late, law and order too was crumbling in the State and our alliance will now speed up development in the State" said Mr. Nadda. "Now NDA will sweep in the upcoming Lok Sabha poll and win all [40] seats in Bihar. In State Assembly elections too in 2025, our alliance will do good," he added. Attacking the Opposition INDIA bloc, which Mr. Kumar helped forge and has now walked out on, Mr. Nadda said: "It's been an unholy alliance and we knew it will disintegrate. This INDIA alliance is a conceptual failure and it was formed by *pariwar bachao* (save family) and property *bachao* (save property) allies and groups of corrupt people."

'Chief of turncoats'

Mr. Kumar last came to power along with the BJP after the 2020 Assembly election, but then snapped his ties and instead formed the *mahagatbandhan* government in August 2022, along with the RJD, Congress, and Left parties.

Political-strategist-turned-activist Prashant Kishor, who had earlier had announced that Mr. Kumar would make another turnaround before the 2024 Lok Sabha poll, said, "Now Nitish Kumar is widely recognized as *sardar* (chief) of *palturams* (turncoats). However, today's development showed that all politicians in Bihar are *palturams*." He offered a dismal forecast for Mr. Kumar's political future. "This formation in which Nitish Kumar is the face of the NDA won't exist until the Assembly elections in Bihar next year," he said. "The change will happen within six months of the Lok Sabha poll [likely to be held in April-May 2024]," Mr. Kishor quipped.

The new NDA government in the State now has the support of 128 MLAs – 78 from the BJP, 45 from the JD(U), four from HAM(S) and one Independent – while the *mahagatbandhan*, now in the Opposition, has the support of 115 legislators, including 79 from the RJD, 19 from the Congress, 16 from the Left, and one from AIMIM, in the 243-member Assembly.

Vacant faculty posts won't be de-reserved: UGC Chairman

Draft provision will not be part of final guidelines, says Jagadesh Kumar, after it draws backlash from academics and activists; educators say UGC has 'no legal right' to open up the matter

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The draft provision allowing "de-reservation" of faculty vacancy meant for the Scheduled Castes (SC), the Scheduled Tribes (ST), and the Other Backward Classes (OBC) in Central universities will not be part of the final guidelines, University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairperson M. Jagadesh Kumar said on Sunday evening, hours after the provision drew a severe backlash from the academic community and activists across the country. It proposed that the vacancy reserved for SC, ST, and OBC candidates can be declared unreserved if enough candidates from these categories are not available.

The final draft was put in the public domain on December 27, with a deadline of January 28 to send feedback. FILE PHOTO

'Final draft'

Mr. Kumar said it was just a "final draft" and that it would be revised and corrected after analysing the public feedback on the document.

"There is nothing like de-reservation and there will not be any de-reservation. The entire draft guidelines are meant for feedback, that will not be part of final guidelines," he told presspersons.

The final draft guidelines were put in the public domain by the government on December 27, with a deadline of January 28 to send feedback and comments.

Amid the controversy, the UGC posted a statement from Mr. Kumar on X, which said, "This is to clarify that there has been no de-reservation of reserved category positions in Central Educational Institutions (CEI) in the past and there is going to be no such de-reservation. It is important for all HEIs [Higher Education Institutions] to ensure that all backlog positions in reserved category are filled up through concerted efforts."

Jawaharlal Nehru University Vice-Chancellor Santishree Pandit also clarified that no such de-reservation had ever taken place at the university.

The Education Ministry, in a statement on X, said, "Reservation in Central Educational Institutions (CEI) is provided for all posts in direct recruitment in Teacher's cadre as per the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Act, 2019. After enactment of this Act, no reserved post is to be de-reserved. Ministry of Education has given directives to all the CEIs to fill up the vacancies strictly as per the 2019 ACT."

After media reports on Sunday morning highlighted this provision for de-reservation, outlined in Chapter X of the Final Draft Guidelines, many educators, including former UGC Chairperson Sukhdeo Thorat, told *The Hindu* that the UGC had "no legal authority" to open up the question of de-reservation in the first place.

India stood by our election process, says Bangladesh Minister

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Obaidul Quader

India stood by Bangladesh's election process when the Opposition tried to cancel the polling, said one of the senior-most leaders of the Awami League government in Dhaka. Speaking to presspersons in Dhaka, Minister of Road Transport and Bridges Obaidul Quader, who is also the general secretary of the party, said that the country's relationship with India will stay on course and new projects in connectivity are under way.

"India has behaved like an honest neighbour which was necessary. There are a few parties in the Opposition in our country who had allied with a few foreign powers to disturb our election process. At that point, India stood by us," said Mr. Quader, arguing that the government of Sheikh Hasina has worked to break the "wall of doubt and mistrust" that existed between India and Bangladesh for many years.

'Wall of mistrust'

"For 21 years, this wall of mistrust disturbed [our] relationship. Our relation with India will remain on track in the future and there will be no crack in it as per my understanding," he said.

The Minister is one of the topmost political figures in Bangladesh and is known for having a ground-level network across Bangladesh.

India had maintained a studied silence ahead of the election in Bangladesh that took place on January 7 and led to the election of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for a fourth consecutive term.

Ms. Hasina's government came under pressure from the United States and the European Union ahead of the polling as they demanded a transparent process. India, however, maintained silence in the face of growing calls on Bangladesh to stay on the democratic course.

Before the election, comments like Mr. Quader's were made by other politicians of the Awami League, including Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud. But this is the first time that Mr. Quader has talked about support from India.

Speaking to presspersons, he said that there is an agreement with India on combating extremism and communalism. "Our two sides are in agreement that we need to strengthen bilateral relation, especially in the background of the current global situation," he said.

Soren visits Delhi after fresh ED summons

Press Trust of India
RANCHI

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren went on an unplanned visit to Delhi after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) issued fresh summons, asking him to join the investigation in a money laundering case.

Mr. Soren travelled to the national capital on Saturday night, triggering speculation.

His trip to Delhi came against the backdrop of the ED asking him whether he would be available for questioning on either Monday or Wednesday.

A source said that Mr. Soren went to Delhi for legal consultations. However, this could not be corroborated by the Chief Minister's Office.

The Central agency had recorded the Chief Minister's statement on January 20 at his official residence under the PMLA.

It was learnt that the fresh summons was issued as the questioning was not completed that day.

Temple event bound crores of Indians in a common thread: PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In his first *Mann Ki Baat* broadcast of 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised women's roles in the Republic Day parade, in Indian sports, and in self-help groups.

On the consecration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, Mr. Modi said, "The occasion of *pran pratishtha* in Ayodhya seems to have bound crores of people of the country together in a common thread."

"The most discussed element was seeing women power in the parade... When the women contingents of Central Security Forces and Delhi Police started marching on Kartavya Path, everyone was filled with pride," the PM said. He also noted that 13 women athletes have been honoured with the Arjuna Award this time.

Mr. Modi added that women's self-help groups have expanded across the country, in their numbers and in the scope of their work. "That day is not far when you will see Namo Drone Didis helping in farming using drones in the fields in every village," he said.

Thirty of the Padma Award recipients this year are women, he said.

Mr. Modi said that at 11 a.m. on Monday, he will participate in the seventh edition of *Pariksha Pe Charcha*.

Rahul calls Bengal a special place, stays mute on Mamata

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Highlighting the political contribution of the people of West Bengal, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday described the State as a "special place" but maintained a silence on Trinamool Congress and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Resuming the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra after a two-day break, he led his convoy from Jalpaiguri to Siliguri, often waving to the crowd from the roof of a vehicle.

Mr. Gandhi's yatra comes days after Ms. Banerjee slammed the door shut on having an electoral alliance with the Congress. In his brief address, the Congress leader said that it

Rahul Gandhi

was the people of West Bengal who provided the ideology to the country during the freedom struggle.

Joint responsibility

"You are intellectual people and thinking people. It is your responsibility to guide the country ... If you do not do that, people of the country will not forgive you," he said. He added that it was not an individual but a collective responsibility of the people to fight against the injustice in the country.

The Congress leader was joined by West Bengal Pradesh Congress president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury.

During his address, Mr. Gandhi targeted the BJP government at the Centre and accused it of working only for big corporations.

"Hatred being spread across the country will serve no purpose," Mr. Gandhi said, urging the people to join him against the 'campaign of hate'. He also highlighted the unemployment in the country and said that the government was not serious in providing employment to the youth.

V-P expresses concern over disruption in legislative proceedings

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday said that debates in legislative bodies had been reduced to quarrels, highlighting the need for presiding officers to assert their authority and maintain decorum.

Speaking at the closing session of the 84th All India Presiding Officers' Conference in Mumbai, he expressed concern over planned disruptions in legislative proceedings, labelling political weaponry as counterproductive and incompatible with the democratic system. As many as 26 presiding officers from 18 States, including 16 Speakers, attended the conference.

"It is no secret that disturbances and disruptions are planned. Political weaponry is counterproductive and has no place in our system," he said.

'Erosion of trust'

Mr. Dhankhar underscored that the erosion of public trust in representative bodies and their members was a "cancerous" issue for society. Presiding officers should engage in stock-taking and invoke authority to ensure decorum. They must do correctional therapy to stop degeneration, he said.

Expressing concern over increasing incidents of indiscipline and disruptive behaviour, Mr. Dhankhar called for introspection to address these issues, highlighting the necessity for presiding officers of both Houses to collaborate effectively in maintaining order within the legislature.

'Forest rights can influence poll results in nearly a third of LS seats'

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The electoral outcome in nearly three in 10 Lok Sabha constituencies can be influenced by issues surrounding the implementation of the forest rights Act, says an analysis by independent researchers.

The forest rights Act, officially known as the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, enables tribal communities and forest-dwelling citizens to claim legal rights over forest land they have occupied for generations, but in many cases, are denied a say or authority in its management or free access to forest produce.

It gives *gram sabhas*, or village councils, the right to decide on how best their forest land can be used. Any transfer of forest land for non-forestry use now requires their consent. However the implementation of the Act has been controversial. While several people have been granted titles under its provisions, hundreds of thousands of tribal people have seen their claim to titles rejected.

The Act lays down criteria under which tribal inhabitants can claim title to their land. However, the exclusions it imposes, impediments by the forest bureaucracy, and provisions of other Acts such as the Forest Conservation Act and the Wildlife Protection Act has, in the eyes of analysts and researchers, posed hurdles to the proper implementation of the forest rights Act.

The forest rights Act enables tribal communities to claim legal rights over the forest land they have occupied for generations. AP

Estimates suggest that at least 30 million hectares of forest land, comprising more than 40% of the total forest area, could be vested as community forest rights with *gram sabhas*. This has the potential to secure the rights and livelihoods of at least 200 million people, including nearly 90 million tribal people.

The latest estimates from the Centre say that as of October 2023, 2.2 million individual land titles and 1.1 lakh community titles - in all 2.3 million titles - have been accorded to tribal and forest dwellers across the country. In the same period, 4.5 million claims to title have been received, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs noted.

For their analysis, the researchers estimated the percentage of the electorate in each constituency that would be eligible for titles under the provisions of the Act. They did this by calculating the population in each constituency, based on the 2011 Census, and among them, the proportion of potential voters who lived in villages that fell in the notified forest areas.

There are 153 constituencies where the settling of rights could be a key issue affecting their voting decisions. There were 45 constituencies, reserved and unreserved, that the researchers classified as "critical" or where issues related to the Act could be most significant. These were unreserved constituencies where over 60% of the electorate were potential rights holders or reserved (Scheduled Tribes) ones with more than 10% as rights holders. There were 97 constituencies where 20%-50% of the electorate were rights holders.

Order to evict

In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the BJP won 103 of these constituencies and the Congress 11. The remaining 39 seats went to 'Others' – 11 in Odisha, 10 in Maharashtra, and five each in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

In 42 seats reserved for the STs, the BJP won 31 (73.81%), and the Congress won only three (7.14%).

"In PCs reserved for STs, issues of rights of the Adivasi communities become central in election campaigns for political representatives for both - the current dispensation as well as the Opposition," the authors Soz and Tushar Dash state in the study. Both are researchers on issues surrounding forest-rights implementation.

In 2019, just ahead of the election, the Supreme Court passed an order that asked States to ensure eviction of tribal people and forest dwellers whose claims to forest land were rejected. Impacting nearly 1.6 million citizens, this led to widespread uproar, after which the Union government agreed to "review" the conditions of rejection. The SC later put its order on hold.

INDIA bloc united in flaying BJP, Nitish

Congress accuses him of political opportunism; SP chief Akhilesh Yadav accuses BJP of 'restricting a future PM to the post of CM'; NCP supremo Sharad Pawar says voters will teach JD(U) a lesson in polls; Jairam Ramesh says the Bihar Chief Minister can give tough competition to a 'chameleon'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition leaders targeted the BJP over Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's switch to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), with Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav accusing the ruling party of restricting a potential Prime Ministerial candidate to the Chief Minister's chair.

"The BJP's desperation in the face of defeat in the Lok Sabha elections. By including him, they have conspired to restrict a future Prime Minister to the post of Chief Minister. The BJP has insulted the people of Bihar and also their mandate," Mr. Yadav said in a post on X.

The Congress accused Mr. Kumar of political opportunism and changing "colours like a chameleon". Party president Mallikarjun Kharge said there are many "*Aaya Ram-Gaya Rams*" [turncoats] in the country's politics.

Speaking to presspersons at his Kalaburagi residence before leaving for Dehradun for a party workers' convention, Mr. Kharge said that Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Lalu Prasad and former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Tejashwi Yadav had informed him about Mr. Kumar's decision to quit the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA).

'In spirit of unity'

"Five days ago, Lalu Prasad and Tejashwi Yadav had told me about Nitish's decision to quit INDIA bloc and return to NDA. But we did not disclose it till the end to keep the spirit of unity in our INDIA alliance. If Nitish is determined, nobody can prevent him," the Congress president said. On seat-sharing discussions with other INDIA partners, Mr. Kharge said that the process was under way.

Nitish Kumar with Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray, Mallikarjun Kharge, and Sitaram Yechury at a INDIA bloc meet. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) supremo Sharad Pawar said Haryana had become infamous for "*Aaya Ram-Gaya Ram*" politics but Mr. Kumar has surpassed it. "When people go to vote, they will teach him a lesson," Mr. Pawar said.

Communist Party of India general secretary D. Raja said that Bihar developments showed how desperate the BJP was to grab power by any means.

"Even after polarisation, spending crores & misusing central agencies, BJP is restless about INDIA alliance. People are tired of BJP misrule, unemployment & price-rise. They will teach BJP a lesson," Mr. Raja said on X.

Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh, who spoke to presspersons in Siliguri before resuming the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra from West Bengal, said: "I have not seen a bigger political opportunist than him [Mr. Kumar]. That's why I say he can give tough competition to chameleons."

Addressing a press conference in Delhi, senior party spokesperson Pawan Khera said, "Guinness World Records will now be known as Nitish book of world records" for taking oath as the Chief Minister for the ninth time.

"The BJP that talks of getting 400 seats in Lok Sabha election knows the reality and that's why they have taken in a person for whom their doors were supposed to be closed," Mr. Khera said.

Senior Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel, who reached Bihar as a senior observer, said, "Whatever credibility Nitish Kumar had is now completely gone." Arvind Sawant, an MP and member of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena, said it was the right decision not to make Mr. Kumar the convener of the INDIA bloc.

INBRIEF

BJP leaders in U.P. applaud Nitish's return to NDA's fold

The BJP leaders of Uttar Pradesh on Sunday applauded the political developments in neighbouring Bihar, with Janata Dal(U) president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar re-joining the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA). They said that the 120 parliamentary seats from U.P. and Bihar together would make sure that the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will return with a thumping majority in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. "80 from U.P., 40 from Bihar, that is, total 120 MPs – it will be 'Jai Sitaram' for the Modi government for the third time," U.P. Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya said. The Kurmi community, an influential Other Backward Classes (OBC) group to which Mr. Kumar belongs, has a sizeable presence in at least eight Lok Sabha and 40 Assembly segments of eastern and central Uttar Pradesh.

JD(U)'s exit not a jolt for INDIA bloc, says Trinamool MP

The Trinamool Congress on Sunday slammed JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar for his "repeated political somersaults" after he dumped the *Mahagatbandhan* in Bihar, and asserted that people will respond appropriately. "Mr. Kumar is known for his political somersaults at regular intervals. The people will give a befitting reply to such political opportunism," party MP Sougata Roy said. Asked about the impact of JD(U)'s exit from the INDIA bloc, he said it does not come as a jolt for the alliance. "It is not good politically if an ally leaves you. But, such things do happen in politics, people come and go. So, it is not a jolt," he said. Another leader, speaking on the condition of anonymity said, "Trinamool was always apprehensive of his credibility because of his history of somersaults. But, the Congress considered him to be a very credible partner." PTI

Keep religion and politics separate, says Congress chief

Opening the Congress's Lok Sabha campaign in Uttarakhand, party president Mallikarjun Kharge told workers at a convention in Dehradun that religion and politics should be kept separate. Maintaining that religion was a matter of personal faith, he said that everybody believed in God and had faith in him. Religion and politics must be kept separate, he said, accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of trying to mix the two. When things get mixed up, it becomes difficult to make a choice between the right and the wrong, he said. He also attacked the Union government for the Agniveer scheme. "They promised jobs, instead they gave the Agniveer scheme. After the four year tenure, the young men are left on the streets without employment," he said.

JD(U) chief murdered the grand alliance in Bihar, says Tejashwi

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Nitish Kumar will remain a respectable person and guardian for me, says Tejashwi Yadav

Former Deputy Chief Minister and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday said Nitish Kumar had "murdered the *Mahagatbandhan*" (grand alliance) after the latter took oath as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the ninth time following an alliance with the BJP.

Mr. Kumar on Sunday resigned from the top post, toppling the *Mahagatbandhan* government which included the RJD, the Congress and the Left parties. This is the the second time Mr. Kumar has deserted the RJD in favour of the BJP.

"The RJD has not left him, he has left us. He has murdered the *Mahagatbandhan*. We followed the alliance Dharma but he did not. Despite that, I am not angry and he will remain a respectable person and guardian for me," he said.

Instead of attacking Mr. Kumar, he spoke about the development work carried out during the tenure of the *Mahagatbandhan* government.

'Development work'

Mr. Yadav credited the former government for conducting the caste-based survey in the State, which was followed by an increase in reservation from 55% to 65% in State government jobs for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Extremely Backward Classes and Other Backward Classes. Mr. Yadav further said that for the first time, recruitment of 2.16 lakh teachers was done within 70 days.

"More than 2 lakh jobs were provided. We brought an information technology [IT] policy, we brought a sports policy after which a separate department was formed for sports for the first time. We granted status of State employees to nearly 4 lakh contractual teachers. Our agenda was development and nothing else," he said.

He said that in 17 months, the grand alliance regime did better work than 17 years of the NDA government in Bihar. He also reminded the people that during the 2020 Assembly election, it was the promise of RJD to provide 10 lakh jobs.

"It was our promise to give jobs and we were doing it. Can't we take the credit for this? I worked honestly and tried to live up to the expectation of the people," he said.

After Mr. Kumar switched sides, hundreds of RJD workers reached the residence of Rabri Devi where Mr. Prasad and Mr. Yadav reside, and shouted slogans against Mr. Kumar.

In welcoming Nitish back into NDA, BJP has Lok Sabha election in mind

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Janata Dal(U) leader Nitish Kumar made the fifth switch of his political loyalties, taking the Oath of Office as Bihar Chief Minister for the ninth time in Patna on Sunday evening. This time, he is back in the NDA fold, with the BJP embracing the renewed alliance, the upcoming Lok Sabha election very much on its mind.

While Mr. Kumar's frequent flips have led to talk of political opportunism, an easy embrace by once-spurned allies – the BJP and earlier, the Rashtriya Janata Dal – is a factor helping him. After all, the newly sworn-in Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Samrat Choudhary had once vowed that he would not take off his saffron turban till he had "dethroned" Mr. Kumar – only to be sworn in to office alongside the Chief Minister with his turban on.

Planning ahead: NDA supporters celebrating in Patna after Bihar CM Nitish Kumar's decision to join hands with the BJP. ANI

Senior BJP sources say there were three clear reasons for the party's embrace of Mr. Kumar.

The first is simple poll arithmetic. "If you look at the *Mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance) vote bank based on the 2020 Assembly election, that is, the RJD, the Congress, the JD(U), and the CPI(ML), it tots up to 52.6%. And even Nitish Kumar alone, in a Lok Sabha election with Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the face [of the opposing BJP] is still good for at least 15% of the vote," said a senior BJP leader involved in the affairs of the State. The 52% figure is almost double that of the BJP and its other allies such as the Lok Janshakti Party and the Hindustan Awam Morcha. In 2022, after the alliance between the BJP and the JD(U) ended, the saffron party's list of 144 vulnerable Lok Sabha seats saw Bihar's share go up from four to 10.

The other two reasons have to do with controlling the narrative around caste and identity politics. With Mr. Kumar in its camp, the BJP can expect to reap some benefits of the caste survey undertaken earlier by the government. It may also help take the edge off some of the Congress's rhetoric on the caste census.

The move will also dent Opposition unity and the strength of the INDIA bloc. Mr. Kumar, the main architect of the alliance, leaving midway, shows a lack of confidence in a grouping he helped forge.

"The INDIA group has already been unable to forge seat adjustments in West Bengal with the Trinamool Congress, and has problems in Delhi and Punjab with the AAP, seat adjustment is unlikely with the Left Front in Kerala, and now a major constituent has walked out in Bihar," said a source.

Earlier, the BJP, had not stood up to Mr. Kumar when it came to running the Bihar government; this time, however, it has got a known critic of the Chief Minister, Vijay Sinha, as a Deputy Chief Minister. Between Mr. Sinha and Mr. Choudhary, the BJP hopes not to be a pushover when it comes to running the State government.

Betrayal Nitish's political character: JMM

Press Trust of India
RANCHI

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), a member of the INDIA bloc, on Sunday hit out at Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, saying "betrayal" was his political character. The party said the Janata Dal (U) chief himself does not know where he belongs.

"Nitish Kumar's resignation was expected as betrayal has been his political character," JMM general secretary and spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya said. He said Mr. Kumar wanted to continue as Chief Minister and ultimately resorted to joining hands with the NDA.

He said Mr. Kumar has already "betrayed" several leaders including late leaders Karpoori Thakur, George Fernandes, Sharad Yadav and RJD chief Lalu Prasad, and ultimately the people of Bihar.

JD(U) blames Congress for INDIA bloc's collapse in Bihar

Press Trust of India
PATNA

The JD(U) on Sunday blamed the Congress for the collapse of the INDIA bloc in Bihar, saying its leaders were interested in strengthening their party and not the Opposition grouping.

Janata Dal(U) spokesperson K.C. Tyagi told presspersons that a "caucus" within the Congress wanted to capture the INDIA bloc leadership, and its president Mallikarjun Kharge's name was proposed as the chairperson of the grouping as part of the conspiracy.

The decision taken about Mr. Kharge at the INDIA bloc meet earlier this month had shocked the JD (U), which believed that its chief and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar would be named the convener without being saddled with any chairperson, its leaders had then said.

'Derailed the alliance'

Another JD(U) spokesperson, Rajib Ranjan, was more severe in attacking the Congress, alleging that it had first sunk itself by trying to make "a person who lacks any quality and harms the Opposition alliance the Prime Minister". The comment was a likely swipe at Rahul Gandhi.

Hitting back at the Congress's charge of opportunism against Mr. Kumar after he walked out of the Opposition alliance and rejoined hands with old ally BJP, Mr. Tyagi said it is the obduracy of the main Opposition party that derailed the INDIA bloc.

He said the JD(U) had problems with its former ally RJD at a local level but squarely blamed the Congress for the development. "We have regret as well as relief that our leader who brought together the INDIA bloc has walked out of it," Mr. Tyagi said.

The Congress wanted to capture the ground of regional parties by making a disproportionate demand of seats in the States it was strong in, he said.

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1. Last date for submission of e-Tender forms : **27.02.2024** Time **5.00 PM.**
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3. Pre Bid Meeting – Date : **09.02.2024 -11.00 AM.** at **MDCMPU, Ltd.,Madurai.**
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All the information regarding the e-Tender and the e-Tender forms can be downloaded from the Website **www.tntenders.gov.in / www.nic.in** for the period from **29.01.2024 to 27.02.2024** upto **5.00 PM.**

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Kindly refer to E-Public Tender-23/23-24 dt 29.12.23 **"Toilet Renovation works in CISF Barracks at SMP & ETF"** (T/C-23-093, Est. cost ₹ 11.84 Lakhs). **Sale period extended up to 05.02.2024**. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.
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Sl.No.	Establishment	Vacancies
1	Carriage Works, Perambur	1357
2	Central Workshop, Golden Rock	679
3	Signal & Telecom Workshop, Podanur	824
	Total	2860

Opening Date of On Line Application 29.01.2024 from 10:00 hrs
Date and Time of closing of on Line application 28.02.2024 till 17:00 hrs
The candidates should have the qualification of Matriculation/ITI. The candidates should be in the age group 15-24. For more details and to apply online visit the website **"https://sr.indianrailways.gov.in** under section **News & Updates → Personnel Branch Information Act Apprentices 2023-24"**
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Bailadila Iron Ore Mines, Bacheli Complex, NMDC Ltd. invites e-bids for the following works. Intending tenderers may visit and download Tender Documents from CPP Portal or www.nmdc.co.in or http://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc/. Any corrigendum/addedum to be issued, the bidder must visit the online protal from time to time to notice the same. Corrigendum/addedum will not be published in any newspaper.The offer has to be submitted online at the given MSTC portal only till 03:30 PM and will be opened on 04:00 PM on respective last dates.

	MSTC Ref. No. NMDC/ Bacheli/ 23-24/ET/	NMDC Tender. No. BIOM/BC/ CONTRACTS /OT(78)/23-24/	Short Description of Work	EMD (Rs.)	Last Date of Sub'n
1	274/736	G-027	Loading of iron ore (Baila ROM/CLO/Sized ore/Fines/Slimes) by engaging two hydraulic excavators (EX- 210 Poclain) and hiring of two excavator (EX-110 Poclain) for weight adjustment at Weighbridge no.1 & 2 and as and when required at other weigh bridge for qty 20 Lakhs tons (±20%) for loading and 7320 Hours for weight adjustment for a period of 12 months.	2,57,100/-	29.02.2024
2	275/737	C-324	Improvement of Sewerage Network and drainage System at NMDC Apollo Hospital Bacheli	53,900/-	29.02.2024
3	276/738	C-320	Replacement of Damaged sheets (FRP & CGS) and Misc. Civil works at CWS, BIOM Bacheli Complex	39,900/-	29.02.2024
4	277/740	C-322	Waterproofing works at Type-III quarters to address routine complaints at Bacheli Township for the year 2023-24	32,100/-	01.03.2024
5	278/741	C-313	Recarpeting of Internal roads of Township at various locations, BIOM Bacheli Complex	77,300/-	01.03.2024
6	279/742	C-319	Providing and Fixing of Aluminium window with fly proof stainless steel mesh in Type-II Quarters in North & South Block at Bacheli Township	68,900/-	02.03.2024
7	280/743	C-321	Waterproofing works at Type-II quarters to address routine complaints at Bacheli Township for the year 2023-24	28,900/-	02.03.2024
8	281/744	C-331	Providing and fixing ceramic tiles in Type II Quarters as per availability/vacancy for the year 2023	64,000/-	03.03.2024
9	282/745	C-332	Providing and fixing CG sheets & Transparent sheets for broken, missing, damaged, sheets as per requirement at plant area from L/P, S/P 10/11A, Dep-5 TC Plant including all conveyor wall and roof L/P area upto Dep-10/11A Crushing Plant Junction house at Bacheli Complex	28,400/-	03.03.2024

HOD (M&S and Contracts)
BIOM, Bacheli Complex

INBRIEF

Indian tunes to be played at Beating Retreat ceremony

The Raisina Hills in New Delhi will reverberate with the sound of Indian tunes that will be played by military and paramilitary bands on Monday during the Beating Retreat ceremony. The historic ceremony, which takes place at Vijay Chowk, marks the culmination of Republic Day celebrations. "The music bands of the Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) will play 31 captivating and foot-tapping Indian tunes before a distinguished audience," the defence ministry said in a statement. The President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Droupadi Murmu, will be present. PTI

No disruption in oil flows to India, says HPCL chairman

Ongoing attacks on shipping vessels by Houthi militants in the Red Sea have not impacted the flow of crude oil to India but freight has gone up due to rerouting via the Cape of Good Hope, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) Chairman Pushp Kumar Joshi said. India, the world's third-biggest oil importer, gets the bulk of its Russian supplies through the Red Sea. Russian supplies made up over 35% of India's total crude imports in 2023, amounting to 1.7 million barrels per day. Mr. Joshi said HPCL had tied up crude oil supplies till mid-April and did not foresee any supply disruptions. HPCL meets 44-45% of its crude oil needs on term contracts with national oil firms such as those in Iraq. PTI

Ease of justice is the right of every citizen, SC its medium: Modi

PM says ₹800 crore approved for expansion of Supreme Court building complex at event marking top court's diamond jubilee year celebrations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said ₹800 crore had been approved for the expansion of the Supreme Court building complex, while underlining that "ease of justice is the right of every Indian citizen and the Supreme Court is its medium".

The Prime Minister was speaking at the diamond jubilee celebrations of the Supreme Court.

Complimenting Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud for his efforts to improve ease of justice in the country, Mr. Modi said over ₹7,000 crore had been disbursed since 2014 to upgrade the physical infrastructure of the courts.

Mr. Modi highlighted the importance of using technology for ease of justice.

He said the entire legal system rests on the advice and direction given by the Supreme Court.

Accessibility to the top court should be available to those in the farthest corners of the country, the Prime Minister said.

PM Narendra Modi with CJI D.Y. Chandrachud at the diamond jubilee celebrations of the Supreme Court in New Delhi. ANI

Chief Justice Chandrachud said the diamond jubilee year of the top court should be the time to recognise challenges threatening the relevancy of the court as an institution.

"Let us begin the conversation on long vacations and whether alternatives such as flexible time for lawyers and judges are possible," the CJI said, adding the "adjournment culture" should give way to a "culture of professionalism".

Speaking on the role played by technology, the Chief Justice said, "We have dealt with over five lakh cases through hybrid hearings.

The live proceedings of the Supreme Court Constitutional Benches are popular and speak to the genuine curiosity that people have towards our courts and procedures."

The Prime Minister launched citizen-centric information and technology initiatives such as the Digital Supreme Court Reports (Digi SCR), which has 36,308 cases of the top court, dating back from 1950, accessible to the public in a digital format. He also inaugurated the launch of a new bilingual website of the top court.

'Independence of judiciary rests on freedom of judges to decide without pressure'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Sunday said the independence of the judiciary depended on the freedom of each and every individual judge to function in office without the pulls of political pressure, social compulsions, and inherent bias.

The Chief Justice was heading a Ceremonial Bench with top court judges and the Chief Justices of 25 High Courts across the country to commemorate the first sitting of the Supreme Court on January 28, 1950. The Supreme Court is celebrating its diamond jubilee year.

He said much had changed down the years, since the time of India's first Chief Justice, Harilal J. Kania.

He recounted Chief Justice Kania's speech at the maiden sitting of the Supreme Court on January 28, 1950, urging judges to hold true to three principles which would form the foundation of the institution of the Supreme Court –independence of judiciary, the interpretation of the Constitution not as a rigid body of rules but as a living organism, and the need to secure and retain the respect of citizens for the Supreme Court as a legitimate institution.

Justice D.Y. Chandrachud

"An independent judiciary does not merely mean the insulation of the institution from the executive and the legislature branches but also the independence of individual judges in the performance of their roles as judges. The art of judging must be free of social and political pressure and from the inherent biases which human beings hold," Chief Justice Chandrachud emphasised.

He said efforts were on to train judges to "unlearn their subconscious attitudes inculcated by social conditioning on gender, disability, race, caste and sexuality".

Chief Justice Chandrachud said the court could not rest its legitimacy solely on the Constitution. "The legitimacy of this court is also derived from the confidence of citizens that it is a neutral and impartial arbiter of disputes which would deliver timely justice," he said.

Addressing criticism that a "poly-vocal court" is not the best system to interpret the Constitution, the Chief Justice said the strength of the Supreme Court was its poly-vocality, which brought together diversity and respect of inclusion, resulting in a synthesis of ideas.

"In the many that wear its apparel, the court emerges as one soul which knits together the Bar and the Bench in our desire to ensure justice to our citizens," Chief Justice Chandrachud said.

The CJI said the Supreme Court's core function was that of the final arbiter who would review whether the exercise of power by the state was legitimate and in accordance with the rule of law.

Chief Justice Chandrachud highlighted the problem of pendency, saying a radical change in decision-making was required from within the court to stop it from becoming dysfunctional.

INSAT-3DS satellite sent to launch port in Sriharikota

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has said that the INSAT-3DS satellite has been flagged off to the launch port at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

The satellite is an exclusive meteorological satellite with the primary objective to provide continuity of services to the existing in-orbit INSAT-3D and 3DR satellites and significantly enhancing the capabilities of the INSAT system.

The satellite is likely to be launched on board the GSLV F14 next month.

The ISRO said it had successfully completed satellite assembly, integration and testing activities at the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru.

INSAT-3DS, a meteorological satellite realised by ISRO.

"Pre-shipment review was held with the participation of members from the user community on January 25," it said. Indian industries have also significantly contributed in the making of the satellite.

The space agency added that the satellite is a user-funded project with the Ministry of Earth Sciences, configured around the ISRO's well-proven I-2k bus platform with a lift-off mass of 2,275 kg.

The satellite is designed for enhanced meteorological observations and monitoring of land and ocean surfaces for weather forecasting and disaster warning with state-of-the-art payloads such as a six-channel imager and 19-channel sounder meteorology payloads, communication payloads, a data relay transponder (DRT) and a satellite-aided search and rescue (SAS&R) transponder.

The DRT instrument receives meteorological, and oceanographic data from automatic weather stations and augments weather forecasting capabilities. The SAS&R transponder is incorporated in the satellite to relay a distress signal/ alert detection for search and rescue services with global receive coverage.

Germany seeks inter-governmental deal for submarines with India

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Germany has presented an inter-governmental proposal for sale of six advanced conventional submarines to India for the Navy's P-75I procurement programme, diplomatic sources confirmed. A senior German delegation was in New Delhi recently to take the discussions forward.

"The senior officials were here two weeks ago. They had good talks in order to move the process forward," a diplomatic source in the know said, without elaborating.

The race for the deal, expected to cost upwards of ₹45,000 crore, is between Germany and Spain, and the process has been considerably delayed.

India and Germany discussed the deal at the highest level during the visit of German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius in June 2023, when he made a strong pitch for the bid by ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) in his talks with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Mr. Pistorius had said that the submarine deal could become a "flagship project" between the two countries.

India and Germany discussed the deal at the highest level during German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius's visit in 2023. FILE PHOTO

Only Germany and Spain technically meet the criteria to submit bids under the P-75I deadline, which saw several extensions before finally culminating in July 2023. The deal is being progressed under the 'strategic partnership' of the defence procurement procedure. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), along with Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Limited, has been shortlisted to partner with foreign submarine manufactures to make six advanced conventional submarines in India under a technology transfer.

As reported earlier, TKMS, which was initially in talks with L&T for partnering under P-75I, recently decided to partner with MDL to bid for the deal.

Subsequently, L&T and Spanish submarine manufacturer Navantia concluded a 'teaming agreement' to jointly bid for the project. As per the understanding, Navantia would carry out the design of P-75I submarines based on its S80 class of submarines, the first of which was launched in 2021 and was delivered to the Spanish Navy in November 2023, while L&T will be responsible for constructing the submarines.

Both the bids have since been submitted and are currently being evaluated, officials said.

On Germany, officials had said India asked Berlin to relax some of their licensing requirements for the export of spares and components.

Northeast to get its first naturopathy hospital

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Union AYUSH Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday laid the foundation of the first yoga and naturopathy hospital in the Northeast.

About ₹100 crore would be invested in the Central Research Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy (CRIYN) at Dihing Khamtighat in eastern Assam's Dibrugarh district. The institute, along with a 100-bed hospital, would be spread across 15 acres.

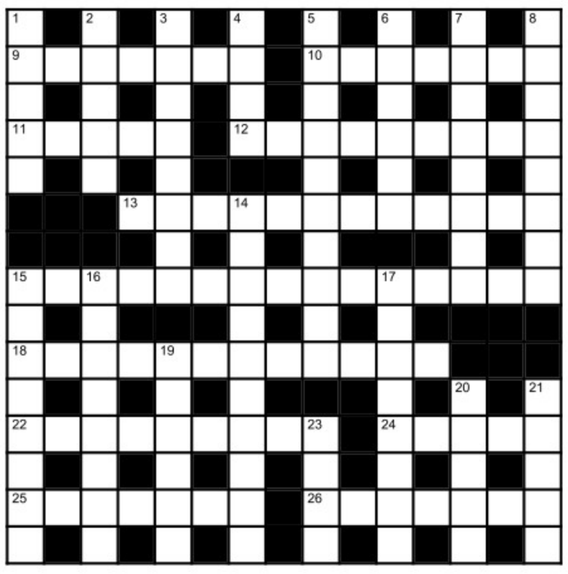
"The CRIYN would be developed as a centre of excellence in yoga and naturopathy for cardiovascular diseases in India and develop protocols for the management of non-communicable diseases," Mr. Sonowal said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14083

(set by Karaoke)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Product price without payment essentially? Say again (7)
10 Happy countries without borders, yet to be born (2,5)
11 Abdominal pain? Apply oil in small measure (5)
12 A thinker'd work without any knowledge (2,3,4)
13 Determined to trespass and overwhelm first love with precious stone? Yes, but parents essentially rejected (6-6)
15 Buses etc use mainly poisonous lubricants on roads (6,9)
18 Heart of great importance? (5-7)
22 Supper club in dark place (9)
24 Maybe Santa's reindeer comes to rest, destroying shops (5)
25 Puzzle -! (7)
26 Joint at present near lake for nightbird (4,3)

Down

1 50% walk out of lectures for music (5)
2 Unit of a large group is growing (5)
3 Split hairs and almost pick Indian game (8)
4 Killed top to bottom for money (4)
5 Hi-tech task is resolved. Call it a day (3,3,4)
6 Maybe Scottish philosopher with religious instruction reveals what skeletons have? (6)
7 Anodynes relax to a certain degree (3,3,2)
8 Pattern of padlock to be broken unplugging camera mainly (5,3)
14 Troubling deep thoughts? Don't be dismissed from job (3,3,4)
15 Big-bellied parent anxiously considers good name (8)
16 Machine pistols burn up extremely strong building (4,4)
17 Happy to get popular job without much work (8)
19 Fashionable belles often drop in these places (6)
20 They are fired by army regularly from mobile operating systems primarily (5)
21 I agree, there is no law in this country (5)
23 Set to be replaced only for upper-class (4)

SUDOKU

				7		6		2
6		4	1					
		9	4				5	7
						4	1	
7			3		4			6
	3	5						
5	9				2	8		
					8	7		1
1		8		4				

No.SS6052 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

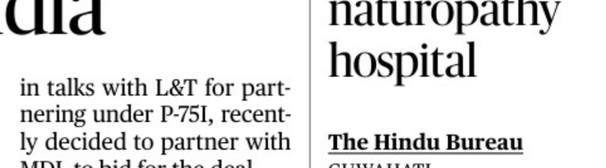
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

E	V	I	C	T		A	B	S	C	O	N	D	E	D
L		N		H		P		U		U		E		A
I	N	S	H	O	R	E		G	A	T	E	W	A	Y
T		O		R		X		A		S		A		L
I	S	L	A	N	D		O	R	A	T	O	R	I	O
S		E		S		L		A		R				N
M	E	N	U		C	O	M	P	R	I	S	I	N	G
		C		G		C		P		P		D		
P	R	E	P	A	Y	A	B	L	E		F	E	E	S
R				S		L		E		S		O		H
O	N	C	A	M	E	R	A		A	P	O	L	L	O
S		R		E		A		A		H		O		U
A	B	E	T	T	E	D		S	L	E	I	G	H	T
I		D		E		I		K		R		U		A
C	H	O	I	R	B	O	Y	S		E	J	E	C	T

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	3	4	6	9	7	2	5	8
9	7	5	8	4	2	3	6	1
6	2	8	5	1	3	4	7	9
2	8	6	1	5	9	7	4	3
7	5	1	4	3	6	8	9	2
4	9	3	2	7	8	5	1	6
5	1	9	3	2	4	6	8	7
3	6	7	9	8	5	1	2	4
8	4	2	7	6	1	9	3	5



FAITH

Performing Karma Yoga

Sri Bhagavad Gita dins into us the need to perform our duties. Great men who could undertake 'jnana yoga' (realising God through the realisation of self) did not give up the performance of Karma Yoga. They thought that if they did not perform, ordinary people would take it as a lead and an example to not perform. Valayapettai Sri Ramachariar said in a discourse that Lord Krishna told Arjuna he was a great warrior with name and fame, and should not refuse to be in the war with the Kauravas.

Sage Viswamithra asked Dasaratha to send Rama with him to the forest. When Dasaratha hesitated, the sage said he knew better who Rama was (*Aham Vedmi Mahatmaanam Ramam Sathya Parakramam* – implying that Rama is the Lord). But the same sage asks Lord Rama to wake up in the forest to perform the daily rituals (*Kousalya Supraja Rama*). Rama stood as an example for others to follow their duties.

Similarly, the Lord performed all His duties as Sri Krishna (*Krishnam Dharmam Sanatanam*). The Lord told Arjuna that there is nothing in all three worlds that must be done or anything unacquired to be acquired. Still, I keep on working (Chapter III, Sloka 22). The Lord further said that if I did not continue to work unwearied, then people would follow my path (Chapter III, Sloka 23).

SEOUL

North Korea fired several cruise missiles, says Seoul's military

AFP

North Korea fired several cruise missiles on Sunday, Seoul's military said, the latest in a series of tension-raising moves by the nuclear-armed state. The launch comes just days after Pyongyang fired multiple cruise missiles toward the Yellow Sea, which it said was a first test of a new generation of strategic cruise missiles. AFP

BANGKOK

China, Thailand citizens may visit each other's country without visa

REUTERS

Thailand and China signed off on a visa waiver agreement at talks between their Foreign Ministers on Sunday. The deal inked by Thai Foreign Minister Parnpree Bahiddha-Nukara and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi allows people from the two nations to travel to one anothers' country without visa from March 1. AFP

TEHRAN

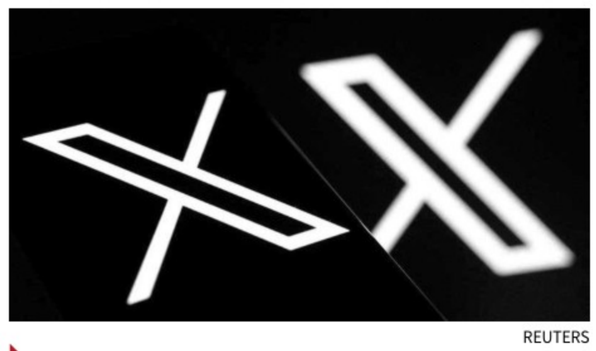
Iran launches three satellites into orbit with different purposes

AP

Iran on Sunday simultaneously launched three satellites into orbit, nearly a week after the launch of a research satellite. While the 'Mahda' is designed to test advanced satellite subsystems, the other two, namely the 'Kayhan 2' and the 'Hatefare', will test space-based positioning technology and narrowband communication. AFP

SAN FRANCISCO

X to open new moderation office in Texas to combat child porn



REUTERS

Social media platform X will open a moderation office in Texas with an emphasis on fighting content linked to child sexual abuse, the company said. The initial goal of the "Trust and Safety center of excellence" in Austin will be to recruit 100 content moderators, focusing on weeding out child sexual exploitation content. AFP

Guterres calls for reversal of funding pause for UNRWA

Reuters
DOHA/GENEVA

UN officials implored countries to reconsider a pause in funding for the UN agency for Palestinians on Sunday, vowing to punish anyone involved in Hamas' attack on Israel and warning that aid for some two million people in Gaza was at stake.

At least nine countries have paused funding for the UN refugee agency for Palestinians (UNRWA) following allegations by Israel that its staff were involved in the October 7 rampage.

"I strongly appeal to the governments to, at least, guarantee the continuity of UNRWA's operations," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, vowing to hold to account "any UN employee involved in acts of terror".

Three U.S. troops killed in drone attack on Jordan base

25 personnel injured as Biden slams Iran-backed militant groups and vows reprisal; Hamas says attack is proof that Washington's backing of Israel could put it at odds with entire Muslim world

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

A drone attack on a base in Jordan killed three American troops on Sunday, with U.S. President Joe Biden blaming Iran-backed militants and vowing to hold the perpetrators to account.

It is the first time American military personnel have been killed by hostile fire in West Asia since the start of the Israel-Hamas war, and the incident will further raise tensions in the region and fuel fears of a broader conflict directly involving Iran.

'Regional explosion'

Hamas said the death of the soldiers shows Washington's backing for Israel could put it at odds with the whole Muslim world if the Gaza war continues and that it could lead to a "regional explosion."

New warfront: The strike marks the first time American troops were killed in West Asia since the start of the Gaza war. AP

"While we are still gathering the facts of this attack, we know it was carried out by radical Iran-backed militant groups operating in Syria and Iraq," Mr. Biden said in a statement.

"We will carry on their commitment to fight terrorism. And have no doubt – we will hold all those responsible to account at a time and in a manner of our choosing," Mr. Biden added.

Identities withheld

U.S. Central Command put the number of wounded from the attack near the Syrian border at 25, and said the identities of those killed will be withheld pending notification of their families.

U.S. and allied forces in Iraq and Syria have been targeted in more than 150 attacks since mid-October, according to the Pentagon, and Washington has carried out retaliatory strikes in both countries.

Pakistan police use tear gas to disperse pre-election rally by Imran's supporters

Associated Press
KARACHI

The Pakistani police fired tear gas to disperse supporters of former Prime Minister Imran Khan in the southern city of Karachi on Sunday, less than two weeks before a national parliamentary election that Mr. Khan was blocked from running in because of a criminal conviction.

Between 20 and 30 people were arrested at the rally. A dozen workers from Mr. Khan's political party were arrested for attacking officers and blocking the road, police said.

Senior police superintendent Sajid Siddozai said workers from Mr. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, or PTI party organised the rally without obtaining permission from authorities and blocked the road.

Minor scuffle: Policemen detain a supporter of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party in Karachi on Sunday. AFP

"When police officials attempted to negotiate and persuade them not to block the road, they attacked the police," he said. "This resulted in injuries to five police officials, including a female officer. One of the wounded is in a critical condition."

PTI worker Waheedullah Shah said Mr. Khan had called for rallies across the country and that Sunday's event in Karachi was peaceful. "But police dispersed our rally and arrested our workers," Mr. Shah said. "We will not be deterred by such tactics."

Burkina, Mali, Niger quit West African bloc

Agence France-Presse
BAMAKO

Following coups, all three nations were suspended from ECOWAS with Niger and Mali facing heavy sanctions

The military regimes in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger announced on Sunday their immediate withdrawal from the West African bloc ECOWAS.

The leaders of the three Sahel nations issued a statement saying it was a "sovereign decision" to leave the Economic Community of West African States "without delay".

Struggling with jihadist violence and poverty, the regimes have had tense ties with ECOWAS since coups took place in Niger last July, Burkina Faso in 2022 and Mali in 2020.

All three were suspended from ECOWAS with Niger and Mali facing heavy sanctions.

They have hardened their positions in recent months and joined forces in an "Alliance of Sahel States".

A French military withdrawal from the Sahelhas heightened concerns over the conflicts spreading southward to Gulf of Guinea states Ghana, Togo, Benin and Ivory Coast.

Art attack

Shock factor: Activists from the "Riposte Alimentaire" (Food Retaliation) hurl soup at Leonardo Da Vinci's "Mona Lisa" at the Louvre in Paris on Sunday. The protesters called for the right to "healthy and sustainable food". The painting suffered no harm due to its glass case. AFP

Muhammad Yunus gets bail on appeal

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladeshi Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus vowed on Sunday to overcome scores of court cases that his supporters say are politically motivated to achieve his environmental and economic policies.

"Our dream is to create a new world," 83-year-old Mr. Yunus said, after he was formally granted bail in his appeal against a six-month prison sentence.

Mr. Yunus is credited with lifting millions out of poverty with his pioneering microfinance bank but has incurred the wrath of Bangladesh's longtime Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who has accused him of "sucking blood" from the poor.

Muhammad Yunus

His conviction on January 1 related to labour law violations, but lawyers said Mr. Yunus faces at least 170 other cases, including major corruption charges that could see him jailed for years if found guilty.

'India to help in the rescue of Sri Lanka fishermen'

Press Trust of India
COLOMBO

India has pledged to assist in the rescue of six Sri Lankan fishermen captured by the Somali pirates, Sri Lanka Navy spokesman said on Sunday.

The multi-day fishing trawler *Lorenzo Putha-4* set sail from Dikowita fishing harbour in Sri Lanka on January 16.

The spokesman said the UN's central maritime command was alerted by Sri Lanka on Saturday on the six fishermen and their trawler being captured by the Somali pirates 840 nautical miles southeast of Mogadishu.

Nepal, China to 'soon' sign implementation plan of BRI projects

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

The two countries had signed the MoU for the Beijing-backed BRI seven years ago

Nepal and China will sign the implementation plan of the Belt and Road Initiative "very soon", Deputy Prime Minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha said on Saturday, seven years after the two neighbours inked an agreement to undertake ambitious Beijing-backed infrastructure projects in the Himalayan nation.

"Once we sign the implementation plan, we will move into the implementation phase," Mr. Shrestha, also the Minister for Home Affairs, said while addressing an event here that is part of the Silk Road Youth Forum and South Asian Cooperation Conference.

Chinese leader's visit

His statement came as Sun Haiyan, a senior leader of China's ruling Communist Party, was visiting Nepal and meeting the country's top leaders.

The signing of the BRI implementation plan is the key to negotiate and execute the projects under the initiative.

Finns vote for new President ahead of NATO era with Russia in mind

Reuters
HELSINKI

Finns headed to the polls to pick a new President on Sunday to lead the country in its new role within NATO after it broke with decades of non-alignment to join the Western defence alliance in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The Nordic country's admission to NATO last year drew threats of "countermeasures" from its much larger neighbour. In December, Finland closed its entire border with Russia to passenger traffic in response to a surge in migrants trying to cross. Moscow denied Finnish charges it was sending the migrants there.

Crucial day: Citizens queue up to register to vote during the presidential elections in Espoo in Finland on Sunday. AFP

All nine candidates are promising a tough stance towards Russia if elected President, a role that leads on foreign and security policy in close cooperation with the government and represents the country at NATO meetings, while also acting as a Commander-in-Chief of the Finnish Defence Forces.

The centre-right National Coalition's Alexander Stubb has emerged as the frontrunner, with recent polls giving him 22-27% support in a first round, just ahead of liberal Green Party member Pekka Haavisto, who polled at 20-23%.

Advance voting

The nationalist Finns Party's Jussi Halla-aho is not far behind Mr. Haavisto, at 15-18%.

Nearly 45% of eligible voters, or 1.9 million Finns, had voted in advance ahead of Sunday, the Justice Ministry's data showed, and partial results consisting of advance votes are expected as soon as polls close after 1800 GMT.

Man killed in armed assault in Turkiye church

Agence France-Presse
ISTANBUL

One man died after armed assailants opened fire in an Italian church in Istanbul during Sunday mass in an apparent assassination attempt that was swiftly condemned by Pope Francis and Turkish officials including President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

The attack occurred at 11.40 a.m. at the Santa Maria church in Istanbul and was carried out by two masked men.

Officials said it looked like a targeted attack against one person rather than against the Catholic church.

The one that got away

COVERNOTE

One must be clear about the nomination procedure, especially when securities are bought in dematerialised form; here's a cautionary tale of the perfect nominator who missed just one thing

K. Nitya Kalyani

My mother had been a steady and diligent investor, reading up and investing in stocks from her college days. While that was one part of her risk profile, as a south Indian middle-class woman, unearned income by way of interest, especially compound interest, was her all-time favourite.

A tech-enthusiast, she went online with her investments very early and stayed on top of her portfolio every single day no matter where in the globe she was, until old age overtook her interest levels.

Another abiding trait of hers was her meticulousness. The forms, the signatures, the nominations, the processes. She could tutor the financial entities and intermediaries just took her word for procedures.

Coming to the one error she made. And, I own up to it as well. Some years ago, when RBI Bonds became interesting (now called Government of India Bonds), she reinvested her NBFC fixed deposit proceeds. Since she bought it in demat form into her securities account, she thought the nomination on the securities account would cover it. She ran this by me and it sounded about right. The bank that held her demat account failed to advise her otherwise.

Fast forward to a couple of years ago when she passed away. The RBI Bonds, nominated to me, could not be transmitted as there was no nomination and no will covering this investment. The bank was careless enough to ask me to go through a whole song and dance routine of an

indemnity bond, a surety (!) and other documents before 'discovering' that all this would suffice only if the value was less than ₹2 lakh.

Succession certificate

A year had passed with their toing and froing, and the officials I was talking to at various levels in the bank just could have applied their minds at the right time. Finally, they said I needed to get a succession certificate from the court. Since my only sibling, who lives abroad was also an heir, his signature was needed at every stage and so papers waited.

After all this, the court procedure was almost a delight! Paperwork abounded, it took about 10 months but it was fairly streamlined and clear. A few more months to get the investments transferred and further time to get the withheld interest of over two years paid to me.

Lesson learnt. Now I trawl through my portfolios, and those of my family members and friends at their request, and keep plugging the nomination holes, update legacy contact information and bank ECS. Yes, I find errors.

So, don't make assumptions, including that your financial entity's staff have the right knowledge and are guiding you responsibly.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Reality check: Performance of companies like HUL shows high growth rates do not always justify steep valuations. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Growth versus value debate in stock investing

The case of ITC, Exide illustrate value-investing approach, characterised by more modest P/E ratios and solid dividends, can yield significant returns, challenging growth-at-any-cost mindset

INVESTING IN STOCKS

Anand Srinivasan
Sashwath Swaminathan

If an investor were forced to remember one principle, it would be Howard Marks' iconic dictum: not all assets are excellent at all prices. Over the past 10 years, the market has consistently favoured growth stocks over value stocks. With low-interest rates and easy monetary policy, the ample money supply ensured more money was chasing a handful of stocks in the market.

> With low-interest rates and easy monetary policy, the ample money supply ensured more money was chasing a handful of stocks

These 'growth' companies have consistently been touted as high-performers by those in the industry during this period in India. Some candidates subject to adulation include Asian Paints, Nestle, HUL and Gillette. During this period, undervalued companies classified via price-to-earnings ratio (P/E ratio) were seen as underperformers and laggards.

Companies such as ITC, which had a considerably lower P/E ratio than peers and a higher dividend yield, remained ostracised by the general market for over a few years. Before examining the results of the debate, let us delve into the rationale that proponents of the 'growth will pay for valuations' espouse.

Dual-pronged

The crux of the growth over value argument is dual-pronged: i) These companies grow at a consistently high rate over a while, and ii) The high rate of growth, when discounted to the present time, ends up more than compensating for the large P/E ratio. When looking at the growth rate of a company such as Asian Paints, which has a compounded profit growth rate of 15% over the past three years, the first thought that comes to mind is it does not seem to truly reflect the enormous rates of growth we associate growth companies with. Asian paints in 2021 commanded a huge P/E ratio of 119.9 on January 8, 2021. An interesting picture emerges when looking at the growth of its stock price over three years. The price grew by a measly 5% a year compared with the growth rate of 15%. The P/E ratio of Asian Paints fell accordingly to 62.

Poor performance

Those who ended up investing in Asian Paints in 2021, continuing to believe the asset was fairly priced and paid for its sky-high valuation, were subjected to poor performance despite consistent growth. Similarly, over the past three years, HUL and Gillette India posted compounded profit growth rates of 14% and 16%, respectively. However, their stock price's compounded annual growth rates stood at 3% and 5%. The P/E ratios shrank considerably.

> Among growth-based investors banking on ultra-low interest rates and abundant capital, it pays to be a value investor

On the other hand, ITC has been continuously undervalued or fairly valued, with a P/E ratio of 17-19 during 2021. It had fallen out of favour during COVID-19 and remained so the year after. It delivered a compounded profit growth rate of 7% over the past three years while its stock price's compounded annual growth stood at 32%.

Another example of an undervalued firm that saw a reversal was Exide, which posted a compounded profit growth rate of 1% over the past three years but a stock-price growth of 18% over the same period.

Unsurprisingly, it was out of favour during and shortly after the COVID-19 period, leading to outsized returns when there was a reversion to the mean. Supporters of growth-based investing dispute the idea of reversion to the mean, stating it may take an extended period for it to occur. Nonetheless, we see that over the past three years, there have been considerable gains to be made through a purely P/E ratio-based investing approach. In his memo, Mr. Marks famously stated, "We believe the easiest way to make unusually high risk-adjusted returns is to buy from depressed sellers and sell to euphoric buyers... thus to buy when assets are underpriced and sell when they're overpriced. The opposite is a nightmare."

Evidently, in an ocean of growth-based investors banking on ultra-low interest rates and abundant capital to maintain buoyant valuations, it pays to be a value investor following the valuation-based method of investing.

In conclusion, the last decade's market trends underscore the wisdom of Mr. Marks' principle: the quality of an asset is not immutable but highly contingent on its price. Despite the prevailing preference for growth stocks fuelled by low-interest rates and generous money supply, the performance of companies like Asian Paints, HUL, and Gillette reveals that high growth rates do not always justify steep valuations.

ITC and Exide illustrate a value investing approach, characterised by more modest P/E ratios and solid dividends, can yield significant returns, challenging the growth-at-any-cost mindset.

Anand Srinivasan is a consultant and Sashwath Swaminathan is a research assistant at Aionion Investment Services

Risk of inflation matters

THINKINVESTOR

As markets evolve and new products are developed, inflation-linked investments may be available to manage inflation risk linked to life goals; till then, be mindful of inflation risk on investments

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Bank fixed deposits are an important part of an individual's goal-based investments. But many individuals have two concerns relating to bank deposits. One, that bank deposits offer low post-tax returns. And two, that post-tax returns on such deposits do not typically beat inflation. Previously, we discussed the first issue and showed why bank deposits are crucial despite low post-tax returns. In this article, we discuss how to understand inflation in relation to bank deposits.

Inflated-adjusted goals

Suppose you want to create a fund for a child's college education. The right way to save for the goal is to estimate the education cost when your child is likely to enter college, say, eight years hence. So, you must consider today's education cost and adjust it for education inflation for eight years. Next, you must consider how much of your savings set aside for this goal must be allocated towards equity funds and bank deposits. Having incorporated inflation into your goal, you do not have to be concerned that bank deposits do not beat inflation; deposits are meant to provide stable returns, not beat inflation.

The higher expected return on equity is likely to balance the lower expected return on bank deposits.

What about the effect of inflation when you are investing your surplus savings? Inflation is relevant when we intentionally postpone consumption to an immediate future date. Suppose you postpone your vacation by a year and the travel cost is expected to rise by 10%. Inflation will hurt you if you park your vacation savings in a one-year deposit. But with surplus cash, your objective is to earn a return on savings. Think of the difference between the post-tax return on your deposit (say 5%) and the general inflation (say 5.5%) as the "real" price you must pay to prevent yourself from spending the money today!

Conclusion

Your concern should be about inflation risk, not that post-tax returns on bank deposits can be lower than inflation; for inflation risk impacts the likelihood that you will achieve your life goals. This is the risk that actual inflation could be higher than the inflation assumed (expected inflation) to determine the amount required to achieve a life goal. As our markets evolve and new products are developed, inflation-linked investments may be available to manage inflation risk associated with your life goals. Till then, be mindful of inflation risk on your investments.

(The author offers training programs for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
HDFC Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Flat Rs 75
State Bank of India	11.15-15.30	10,909-11,974	2,182-2,395	NIL (till 31 Jan)
ICICI Bank	10.65 onwards	10,784 onwards	2,157 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	11.40-18.75	10,971-12,902	2,194-2,580	Up to 2% (min Rs 1,000 and max sRs 10,000)
Axis Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	10.75-14.75	10,809-11,829	2,162-2,366	Up to 1% (Max Rs 5,000)
Canara Bank	10.95-15.95	10,859-12,146	2,172-2,429	NIL
Punjab National Bank^	10.40-16.95	10,772-12,413	2,144-2,483	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99-16.00	10,621-12,159	2,124-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.49 onwards	10,994 onwards	2,199 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.35-15.45	10,959-12,013	2,192-2,403	Up to 1% (Max Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	10.15-12.80	10,660-11,325	2,132-2,265	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	12.85-20.60	11,338-13,414	2,268-2,683	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	12.45-12.85	11,236-11,338	2,247-2,268	Up to 1% (Min Rs 750)
IDFC First Bank	10.75 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 3.50%
Bank of Maharashtra	10.00-12.80	10,624-11,325	2,125-2,265	1% (Rs 1,000-Rs 10,000)
Karnataka Bank	13.41	11,482	2,296	Up to 2% of loan amount (Min. Rs 2,500 & Max. Rs 8,500)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%

Car Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
Union Bank of India	9.15 - 10.45	10,416 - 10,735	Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	8.75 - 10.60	10,319 - 10,772	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.75 - 12.70	10,319 - 11,300	Up to Rs 10,000
Canara Bank	8.70 - 11.95	10,307 - 11,110	Waived off till 31st January 2024
UCO Bank	8.45 - 10.55	10,246 - 10,759	Nil
State Bank of India	8.75 - 9.80	10,319 - 10,554	Nil
IDBI Bank	8.80 - 9.60	10,331 - 10,525	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.70 - 13.00	10,307 - 11,377	Nil
Indian Overseas Bank**	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	9.10 onwards	10,403 onwards	Rs 999 - Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	0.50% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	8.88 - 11.34	10,350 - 10,956	0.60% (Rs 3,000 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Punjab and Sind***	8.85 - 10.25	10,343 - 10,685	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 15,000)
South Indian Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	1% (Max: Rs 10,000)
City Union Bank	14.35 - 14.85	11,725 - 11,586	1.25% (Min: Rs 1,000)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holders.
**0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 750 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.20% to borrowers for financing Electric 4 Wheelers. 0.20% concession to existing Housing Loan Borrowers.
***Concession of up to 50% on processing fee for PSB Apna Vahan Sugam.

Rates and charges as on January 24 **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

GOING ONE BETTER

England posts its 15th Test win against India in India

K.V.S. GIRI

The win in Hyderabad was England's 15th against India in India. This is the most by any team, going past the 14 each by West Indies and Australia. India had lost a Test after taking a 100-plus first-innings lead only twice before (vs. Sri Lanka, Galle, 2015, 192-run lead; vs. England, Edgbaston, 2022, 132-run advantage).

GOOD AS NEW!

The doctor did something amazing to my toe: Shamar

AFP

Pacer Shamar Joseph was forced to retire hurt in the third innings after he was struck by a searing yorker from Mitchell Starc. But, the 24-year-old pacer bounced back to bowl a relentless nearly 12-over spell, taking seven wickets in the process. "I wasn't even going to come to the ground today. But the doctor did something to my toe."

PATHETIC AND HOPELESS

Hogg's two words spurred the team to victory, says Brathwaite

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

West Indies skipper Kraigg Brathwaite revealed that former Aussie pacer Rodney Hogg's harsh assessment of his team spurred it to a win. "I must say we had two words that inspired us in this Test match. Mr. Rodney Hogg said that we were 'pathetic and hopeless'. That was our inspiration. We wanted to show the world we're not."

RIGHT PRESCRIPTION

The doctor told me to come and support the team, reveals Shamar

AFP

West Indies' match-winner Shamar Joseph was in doubt to feature in the fourth day of the second Test against Australia at The Gabba on Sunday. "I wasn't even coming out to the ground this morning. I must give a shout-out to the doctor. He told me to come to the ground for a reason, even if it's just to support the guys," he said.

After the Pope show, debutant Hartley spells India's doom

The No. 3 batter scores 196 to wipe out the first-innings deficit all by himself and helps England set a target of 231; the home team comes a cropper, losing seven wickets for 117 before Bharat and Ashwin delay the inevitable with a gritty 57-run stand

ENGLAND IN INDIA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
HYDERABAD

Ah, this England team!

History might take a while more to put it in perspective, but make no mistake, this is no ordinary side.

Ordinary teams don't play Test cricket like that. Ordinary teams don't play with such free spirit and yet win regularly. Ordinary teams don't fall behind by 190 in the first innings in challenging conditions overseas and still go on to register a victory.

England did just that on Sunday, winning the first Test by 28 runs at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium. That is not a big margin, but it could easily have been, if not for a fine rearguard action by India's eighth-wicket pair.

K.S. Bharat and R. Ashwin batted with admirable grit to give their team a glimmer of hope, adding 57 for the eighth wicket. At 119 for seven, it had looked almost certain that the Englishmen would finish off the match on the fourth day itself. They did, but only after the extra half-hour was added and the lights were switched on.

Under those bright lights, complemented by the golden rays of the evening sun, it was fitting that Tom Hartley bowled the last ball of what turned out to be a truly memorable Test.

The tall left-arm spinner had Mohammed Siraj, the local lad whose primary skill doesn't involve a bat, stumped by Ben Foakes.

That was Hartley's seventh wicket. This was his first Test. His first ball was hammered for a six by Yashasvi Jaiswal, as was his fifth. In the second innings, he took seven for 62. With the bat he made 23 and 34. Sometimes, life can be better than dreams.

Life can often be hard in the fourth innings on Indian wickets. India's batters found that out, in front of another big turnout.

Hartley exacted revenge against Jaiswal, having him caught at short-leg by Ollie Pope, who had earlier performed an even bigger miracle for England.

Just two balls later, the two men combined again to extend Shubman Gill's miserable run in Test cricket. Hartley dealt a heavier blow when he trapped Rohit Sharma (39, 58b, 7x4) in front. No other Indian batter could reach 30.

Earlier, Pope (196, 278b, 21x4) made his great overnight innings greater. After resuming on 148, and with England at 316 for six, Pope was the last man out, agonisingly four short of what would have been a well-deserved double hundred. He was bowled while trying to reverse scoop Jasprit Bumrah.

But the England vice-captain had done enough to reverse his team's fortunes, playing probably the innings of his life.

Pope was absolutely brilliant as he produced one of the best Test knocks in India, but credit is also due to his partners down the order.

England did remarkably well to come back from 163 for five – a deficit of 27 at that time – and become the first team to go past 400 in its second innings of a Test in India since 2012.

Aided by Foakes, Rehan Ahmed and Hartley, Pope brought England back from the dead. Then Hartley took the life out of India's chase.

Tom's day out: Hartley bowled with heart and guile as England turned the tables on India. K.V.S. GIRI

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND — 1ST INNINGS
246 in 64.3 overs.
INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
436 in 121 overs.
ENGLAND — 2ND INNINGS
Zak Crawley c Rohit b Ashwin 31 *(33b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Ben Duckett b Bumrah 47 *(52b, 7x4)*, Ollie Pope b Bumrah 196 *(278b, 21x4)*, Joe Root lbw b Bumrah 2 *(6b)*, Jonny Bairstow b Jadeja 10 *(24b, 1x4)*, Ben Stokes b Ashwin 6 *(33b)*, Ben Foakes b Axar 34 *(81b, 2x4)*, Rehan Ahmed c Bharat b Bumrah 28 *(53b, 3x4)*, Tom Hartley b Ashwin 34 *(52b, 4x4)*, Mark Wood c Bharat b Jadeja 0 *(7b)*, Jack Leach (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (b-16, lb-10, nb-6): 32; Total (in 102.1 overs): 420.
FALL OF WICKETS
1-45 (Crawley, 9.2 overs), 2-113 (Duckett, 18.5), 3-117 (Root, 20.6), 4-140 (Bairstow, 27.4), 5-163 (Stokes, 36.5), 6-275 (Foakes, 66.6), 7-339 (Rehan, 82.3), 8-419 (Hartley, 100.1), 9-420 (Wood, 101.6).
INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 16.1-4-41-4, Ashwin 29-4-126-3, Axar 16-2-74-1, Jadeja 34-1-131-2, Siraj 7-1-22-0.
INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
Rohit Sharma lbw b Hartley 39 *(58b, 7x4)*, Yashasvi Jaiswal c Pope b Hartley 15 *(35b, 2x4)*, Shubman Gill c Pope b Hartley 0 *(2b)*, K.L. Rahul lbw b Root 22 *(48b, 3x4)*, Axar Patel c & b Hartley 17 *(42b, 3x4)*, Shreyas Iyer c Root b Leach 13 *(31b, 1x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja run out 2 *(20b)*, K.S. Bharat b Hartley 28 *(59b, 3x4)*, R. Ashwin st. Foakes b Hartley 28 *(84b, 2x4)*, Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 6 *(18b)*, Mohammed Siraj st. Foakes b Hartley 12 *(20b, 1x4)*; Extras (b-4, lb-14, w-1, nb-1): 20; Total (in 69.2 overs): 202.
FALL OF WICKETS
1-42 (Jaiswal, 11.4), 2-42 (Gill, 11.6), 3-63 (Rohit, 17.5), 4-95 (Axar, 29.4), 5-107 (Rahul, 32.4), 6-119 (Jadeja, 38.1), 7-119 (Shreyas, 40.2), 8-176 (Bharat, 61.6), 9-177 (Ashwin, 63.2).
ENGLAND BOWLING
Root 19-3-41-1, Wood 8-1-15-0, Hartley 26.2-5-62-7, Leach 10-1-33-1, Rehan 6-0-33-0.
Player-of-the-Match: Pope.
England won by 28 runs to take a 1-0 lead in five-match series.
Second Test: February 2 to 6, Visakhapatnam.

Pope's innings made the difference, says Dravid

P.K. Ajith Kumar
HYDERABAD

Rahul Dravid has played, and then watched several, great innings in Tests. So when he says that he hasn't seen quite an innings like Ollie Pope's, which helped England pull off a stunning victory against India in the first Test, you take note.

"The sweep is something that people employed in the past," the Indian coach said at the post-match press conference. "But to be able to play the reverse sweep that consistently and that successfully for that long – hats off to him, credit to him."

Dravid feels Pope's innings (196, 278b, 21x4) was the difference between the two teams. "To be honest, 230 was a pretty challenging score on this wicket in the fourth innings, and it is always going to be challenging in India," he said. "Ollie Pope came out, and played a fantastic innings. He played a lot of high-risk shots and executed them superbly. His 196 on that wicket where nobody else got a 50 in their side made the difference in the game."

Pope. K.V.S. GIRI

Dravid sounded confident of bouncing back, with four Tests still remaining in the series. "We have got to get more disciplined on where to pitch the ball," he said. "We will work on it. We will get better at it. We have got some world-class spinners. Not the first time we are being challenged. One of the good things about our spinners is they always come back, they always bounce back."

He appreciated the fightback put in by K.S. Bharat and R. Ashwin with their eighth-wicket stand, which just about put India in the game for a while before the inevitable happened. "It took a really good ball (from Tom Hartley) to get Bharat out," Dravid said. "I have praised Pope a lot but I thought Hartley had a fantastic Test match."

Our best win since I've taken over as captain, says Stokes

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

"We did have some remarkable wins in the recent past but this is definitely No. 1. We have been part of some amazing games over the last two years, have had some incredible victories," the England captain Ben Stokes said after his team defeated India in the first Test here on Sunday.

"But, considering where we are, who we played against, we found ourselves going into our second innings of batting and were just able to sit here now and say, 'we're gonna win a lot'. I think that's a big reason as to why I feel this is our best victory since I've taken over as captain," Stokes informed the media.

"The most important thing above any individual successes is the outcome for the team. But, that does not take away from how well Ollie Pope played," he said on Pope's match-winning century.

Stokes. K.V.S. GIRI

"I am committed to the decision (of playing left-arm spinner Tom Hartley who made his Test debut). I think in his first spell in Test cricket against a quality team, he played incredibly well," he said.

"We put in all that work in Abu Dhabi and that pre-camp and then when we arrived here, it was kind of just trying to enjoy it. I think that's probably allowed us to come back from that. That big deficit that we did have. And, that's exactly what we want to do as a team. And, we'll keep doing it hopefully in the future," Stokes said.

Ollie Pope said, for him it was just about getting his head around and putting a big innings together. "And, in a winning pose, it means a hell of a lot more," he said.

Shamar's seven for 68 bowls West Indies to a sensational victory

Fast and furious: Shamar, who bowled an inspired spell, rattles Green's stumps. AFP

WINDIES IN AUSTRALIA

Reuters
BRISBANE

West Indies quick Shamar Joseph took seven for 68 as he bowled through pain to give the tourists a first Test win in Australia since 1997 with an incredible eight-run upset on day four of the day-night second Test.

Forced to retire hurt from a toe-crushing Mitchell Starc yorker the previous evening, Shamar bounced back to claim six wickets in a session to help West Indies sensationally dismiss Australia for 207 in pursuit of a target of 216.

Australia's new opener Steve Smith, who made 91 not out, farmed the strike to protect Josh Hazlewood (0) when the Test hung in the balance, but it was to no avail.

Shamar, playing his first Test series, sent Hazlewood's off-stump flying and dashed across the Gabba field with his tongue hanging out before celebrating with his teammates.

It was Australia's first loss in 12 pink ball Tests.

Shamar was unable to finish his batting innings on Saturday night, such was the pain from his injury.

The 24-year-old said he was in such discomfort that he almost did not turn up at the ground for day four. But some medical treatment did the trick, and he was soon bowling over Cameron Green (42) and Travis Head in consecutive deliveries.

Mitchell Marsh (10) fell next, juggled between the slips, and Alex Carey (2) soon had his stumps rattled as Joseph's fiery afternoon rampage continued.

Resuming from 33 overnight, Smith continued to accumulate while Starc opted for aggression, blasting a 14-ball 21 before presenting debutant Kevin Sinclair at backward point his third catch for the game.

Cummins, caught-behind, added two before becoming Joseph's sixth victim in a lionhearted 11 over-spell, which reduced the hosts to 187 for eight at the break.

Alzarri Joseph captured Nathan Lyon's bottom-edge one ball after spilling a caught-and-bowled chance to have Australia nine down and trailing by 21, setting the stage for Shamar Joseph's dramatic dismissal of Hazlewood.

SCOREBOARD

West Indies —1st innings: 311.
Australia —1st innings: 289/9 decl.
West Indies— 2nd innings: 193.
Australia —2nd innings: Steve Smith (not out) 91, Usman Khawaja c Joshua b Alzarri 10, Marnus Labuschagne c Sinclair b Greaves 5, Cameroon Green b Shamar 42, Travis Head b Shamar 0, Mitchell Marsh c Greaves b Shamar 10, Alex Carey b Shamar 2, Mitchell Starc c Sinclair b Shamar 21, Pat Cummins c Joshua b Shamar 2, Nathan Lyon c Joshua b Alzarri 9, Josh Hazlewood b Shamar 0; Extras (lb-3, w-3, nb-9): 15; Total (in 50.5 overs): 207.
Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-42, 3-113, 4-113, 5-132, 6-136, 7-171, 8-175, 9-191.
West Indies bowling: Roach 10-1-28-0, Alzarri 17-1-62-2, Greaves 12-0-46-1, Shamar 11.5-0-68-7.
Player-of-the-Match and Player-of-the-Series: Shamar Joseph.
(West Indies won the second Test by eight runs to draw the two-match series 1-1).

CMYK
M BG-BGE

Sinner stages a stunning fightback for his first Grand Slam title

The 22-year-old is the first Italian man to win a Slam since Adriano Panatta in 1976 and the youngest man to win the Australian Open since Djokovic in 2008. It was a crushing disappointment for Medvedev, who has now lost five of his six finals in Majors

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Glorious victory: Sinner thundered 14 aces, hit 50 winners and broke Medvedev's serve four times to become the first Italian champion in tournament history. AP

Jannik Sinner stormed back from two sets down on Sunday to beat Daniil Medvedev in a gruelling five-set Australian Open final and win his first Grand Slam title.

The Italian fourth seed had no answer to the Russian's aggression in the first two sets but dug deep to win 3-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 in three hours and 44 minutes.

He collapsed to the floor following match point before returning to his feet to savour his moment of victory on Rod Laver Arena.

Sinner thundered 14 aces, hit 50 winners and broke Medvedev's serve four times to become the first Italian champion in tournament history.

The 22-year-old is the first Italian man to win a Slam since Adriano Panatta in 1976 and the youngest man to win the Australian Open since Novak Djokovic in 2008.

But the result was a bitter blow for the third-ranked Russian, who has now lost a second Australian Open final after being two sets up, following his bitter defeat by Rafael Nadal in 2022.

Sinner praised Medvedev for his remarkable stamina throughout the tournament – the final was his fourth five-setter this year in Melbourne.

"Your effort has been awesome throughout the tournament, the hours on court and today's effort running for every ball," he said.

"It is remarkable to see. I hope you can also lift this trophy here and I'm sure that you can.

"It's obviously a huge tournament for me and I want to thank everyone for making this Slam so special.

"My team, we are trying to get better every day. Even in this tournament we were trying to get stronger, understand every situation a bit better."

Well-deserved

Former US Open champion Medvedev, who has now lost five of his six finals in the Majors, said Sinner deserved to win.

"You fought to the end and you managed to raise your level," he said. "You and your team are doing an amazing job.

"I hope I can try to get the next one if we play in a final."

Medvedev, in his previous six matches, had spent nearly six hours longer on court than Sinner, who had only lost one set.

But, looking fresh, he was quickly into his stride, unsettling the usually calm Sinner, who was unable to find any sort of rhythm against the Russian's aggression.

The Italian, playing in his first Grand Slam final, was broken just twice in the entire tournament in the run-up to Sunday but Medvedev doubled that tally in the first set.

Sinner was again in deep trouble at the start of the second set, fending off multiple break points against a hungry Medvedev and pleading for backing from the crowd on centre court.

He survived that onslaught but was broken for a third time in the match in the fourth game when a poor drop shot allowed the Russian to set up a winner.

Medvedev raced through his service game to love, giving Sinner no time to gather his thoughts.

He hit a fierce forehand to set up two more break points in the sixth game and Sinner went wide with a forehand to slip 5-1 down.

The Italian broke back immediately but Medvedev snuffed out the mini-revival to surge into a two-set lead.

The third set was tighter and went with serve until the decisive 10th game when Sinner, who did not face a break point in the set, pounced to break and close the gap.

The momentum was now all with the Italian and the tiring Medvedev, who required strapping for his foot, had to fight hard to hold early in the fourth set.

Sinner fired three aces to edge 4-3 ahead and broke in the 10th game when Medvedev fired long to take the match into a fifth set.

With the tension mounting, both players stayed solid on serve until the sixth game of the final set, when Medvedev dumped a backhand into the net to give Sinner three break points.

A forehand crosscourt winner gave the Italian the crucial break and he closed out on serve to earn the biggest win of his life.

All those years of struggle, sacrifice... felt like the weight was off my shoulders: Bopanna

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Jackpot: After playing with so many partners, this [with Ebden] is my most consistent partnership in terms of results at Slams. REUTERS

Lavishing superlatives is a craze in modern-day sport. But for Rohan Bopanna, it doesn't feel exaggerated, for winning your maiden men's doubles Grand Slam title when you are about to turn 44 can be surreal.

"It's a dream come true," Bopanna said during a virtual media interaction on Sunday. "When I was on the court talking [after the win], there were so many thoughts, it was like my mind was about to explode. All those years of struggle, sacrifice... it felt like the whole weight was off my shoulders. It's an incredible and magical moment."

Bopanna is not new to Slam success, having clinched the 2017 French Open mixed doubles title with Gabriela Dabrowski. But mixed doubles is a format that doesn't exist outside the Majors and quadrennial events like Olympics and Asian Games. There are also no separate rankings. No wonder Bopanna ranked his latest success in men's doubles higher.

Simply the best

"This feels extra special. When I was playing with Aisam [ul-Haq Qureshi, in 2010] and we decided to focus on doubles and make it a career, men's doubles was the target. Along came the success in 2017, but to win in men's doubles was always the dream. So without a doubt, this is the best moment in my tennis journey."

The past fortnight marked several firsts for Bopanna. He made it past the third round in doubles only for the first time in 17 visits to Australia. Then came the assurance of the World No.1 ranking, the Padma Shri award from the Indian government and ultimately the Australian Open crown. But to his credit, he didn't let the emotions that accompany such a series of highs overwhelm him.

Doing it right

"What really helped was that I enjoyed every single day, [but at the same time], no matter what, I ensured I got proper sleep, did proper recovery and was aware what the [final] goal was.

"After I got past the third round, everything started getting better. I knew that with Matt [Ebden] and me playing so well in Adelaide [finalists], if we continued the form, we genuinely had a chance to win the title. That came true and I don't think it would have happened if not for a partner like Matt, who understood how it is being on the big stage and brought the best tennis when really needed.

"Our biggest strength was being calm together. Even in the first match, when we were 0-5 down, there was no doubt at any moment that the match was slipping away. After playing with so many partners over so many years, this is my most consistent partnership in terms of results at Slams," added Bopanna, who now has three straight semifinal or better finishes with Ebden in the last three Majors.

Portugues' strike helps Girona go back to the top of LaLiga

Reuters
BARCELONA

Girona reclaimed top spot in the LaLiga after a 1-0 win at Rafa Benitez's Celta Vigo on Sunday, thanks to Portugues' strike early in the first half and to its goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga, who excelled for the unexpected season leaders.

Girona sits alone at the summit with 55 points, one ahead of Real Madrid, which has a game in hand.

Portugues scored from a counter-attack led by Miguel Gutierrez in the 20th, and Gazzaniga worked his magic to produce a superb performance to keep out the home side and help secure the three points.

Meanwhile on Saturday, Alexander Sorloth and Jose Luis Morales struck deep into stoppage time to earn Villarreal a 5-3 win at Barcelona in a roller-coaster clash.

Barcelona is now third in the standings on 44 points, 10 behind Real Madrid and 11 adrift of Girona.

Hero! Portugues celebrates after netting the winner. AFP

The results:
LaLiga: Celta Vigo 0 lost to Girona 1 (Portugues 20).
Serie A: Genoa 2 (Retegui 70, Ekuban 76) bt Lecce 1 (Krstovic 31).
Saturday's results: LaLiga: Barcelona 3 (Gundogan 60, Pedri 68, Bailly 71-og) lost to Villarreal 5 (Moreno 41, Akhomach 54, Guedes 84, Sorloth 90+9, Morales 90+12).
Serie A: Atalanta 2 (Miranchuk 33, Scamacca 45+1) bt Udinese 0; Juventus 1 (Vlahovic 50) drew with Empoli 1 (Baldanzi 70).
Bundesliga: Hoffenheim 1 (Kramaric 45+7-pen) drew with Heidenheim 1 (Dinkci 29); Bayer Leverkusen 0 drew with Borussia Moenchengladbach 0.

Xavi says will leave Barca at the end of the season

Agence France Presse
BARCELONA

Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez said he will leave his post at the end of the season after his struggling team lost 3-5 to Villarreal in the La Liga on Saturday.

"On June 30 I will leave the club, it's a decision I have taken with the president, with the staff," Xavi told reporters.

Champion Barcelona, third in the top flight, with its title defence virtually over.

After elimination in the Copa del Rey by Athletic Bilbao this week and a thrashing by Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup final earlier in January, Xavi said he made the decision for the good of the club.

"I've thought about the club... and above all the players," said Xavi. "I have the feeling that I am doing the right thing, that I am acting with common sense. I think the club needs a change of dynamics, the dynamic is very negative."

Vidit becomes top Indian in live ratings

Sports Bureau

After trailing the leaders till the penultimate round, Vidit Gujrathi finally caught all attention by stopping leader Nodirbek Abdusattorov in the 12th round and became part of a five-man leaders' pack into the final round of the Tata Steel Masters chess tournament at Wijk aan Zee, near Amsterdam, on Saturday.

The second successive victory saw Vidit not only join D. Gukesh, Abdusattorov, Anish Giri and China's Wei Yi at 7.5 points, but also made him the top-ranked Indian on the live rating list. Having gained 9.8 points from successive wins, Vidit raised his rating to 2751.5 for the 10th spot in the live world rankings for the first time. Gukesh was left to regret the unusual manner in which he let R. Praggnanandhaa (7) escape with a draw and, with it, missed a chance to become the sole leader.

Meanwhile, Leon Mendonca provided a fitting finale to his campaign by beating teammate Divya Deshmukh in the final round and won the title in the Challengers section on Sunday.

Vidit Gujrathi.
FILE PHOTO: B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Final standing (after 13 rounds):
Challenger: 1. Leon Mendonca (9.5 points), 2-3. Daniel Dardha (Bel, 9), Marc Andria Maurizzi (Fra, 9), 4-5. Erwin L'Ami (Ned, 8.5), Anton Korobov (Ukrm 8.5), 6, Saleh Salem (UAE, 7.5), 7-8. Hans Moke Niemann (USA, 7), Jaime Santos Latasa (Esp, 7), 9-10. Liam Vrolijk (Ned, 5.5), D. Harika (5.5), 11. Mustafa Yilmaz (Tur, 5), 12. Divya Deshmukh (4.5), 13. Stefan Beukema (Bel, 2.5), 14. Eline Roebers (Ned, 2).

Nominations for the National Team of the Year Award

SPORTSTAR ACES 2024 INDIA TRIUMPHS

Sports Bureau

Indian sports had many moments to cherish in 2023. It is time to celebrate these landmark moments and achievements at the *Sportstar* ACES Awards.

Here are the nominations for the National Team of the Year Award.

The Indian men's cricket team began the year by retaining the Border-Gavaskar Trophy with a 2-1 series win at home. Along the way, Rohit Sharma's men also qualified for a second successive World Test Championship final, which they eventually lost to Australia. They started the 2023-25 WTC cycle with a 1-0 series win in the West Indies before winning the Asia Cup for a record-extending eighth title. The Men in Blue then went on an inspiring 10-match winning streak in the ODI World Cup before falling short in the final against Australia.

The Indian men's kabaddi team beat Iran in a controversial final to reclaim the Asian Games gold after five years and clinch a record-extending eighth title. Earlier, the Indian men beat Iran 42-32 in a high-voltage final to defend their Asian Championships title. It was India's eighth title in the continental championships.

The Indian men's hockey team clinched the gold medal at the Asian Games, beating Japan in a thrilling final, and earned direct qualification for the Paris Olympics. The side claimed the Asian Champions Trophy 2023 title for an unprecedented fourth time. In a historic feat, it also defeated Australia in the FIH Pro League, marking the first such victory in a major competition since 1996. The team also beat Pakistan in the final of the Asian 5s World Cup qualifiers, earning both the title and a spot in the upcoming FIH Hockey 5s World Cup in 2024.

Indian archers Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami, and Parneet Kaur secured India's maiden gold medal at the World Archery Championships. They also impressed at the Asian Games, clinching the gold in the women's team event by defeating Chinese Taipei in an absorbing final. The trio added another feather to its cap by claiming gold in the women's team event at the World Cup Stage 4 in Paris.

Under Shafali Verma's captaincy, India's U-19 side went on to win the World Cup becoming the first women's team – across categories – to win an ICC title. Later in the year, it also won the U-23 Emerging Asia Cup title.

The voting lines for the 2034 Aces Awards will close on Jan. 31.

Happy bunch: The victorious Tamil Nadu volleyball squad. R. RAGU

Tamil Nadu boys win volleyball gold

West Bengal takes the honours in the girls' section; Kishore and Nanda pedal to glory; Ramu, Harika, and Ankita lift titles

KHELO GAMES

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu put up a splendid performance to claim the boys' volleyball gold in the 6th Khelo India Youth Games, with a 25-20, 25-23, 22-25, 25-15 win over Haryana in the final, here on Sunday.

Leading by two sets to love, TN faltered in the third. The way the host regrouped in the fourth was magnificent. The contest was even till 15-13 when TN took control with attacker Karthik and Bharath Kumar producing timely smashes.

West Bengal won the girls' title beating Rajasthan 23-25, 25-22, 25-13, 25-23.

The results: Volleyball (finals): Boys: Tamil Nadu bt Haryana 25-20, 25-23, 22-25, 25-15. **Girls:** West Bengal bt Rajasthan 23-25, 25-22, 25-13, 25-23.
Swimming: Boys: 100m backstroke: 1. Akash Mani (Kar) 57.14s, 2. Nithik Nathella (TN), 3. Rishabh Anupam Das; **200m breaststroke:** 1. Rana Pratap (Jhr) 2:23.98s, 2. Shlok Santosh Khopade (Mah), 3. Abhinandan Khadelwal (Raj); **400m medley:** 1. Yug Chelani (Raj) 4:38.40, 2. Mongam Theerdu Samadev (AP), 3. Saswata Roy (WB).
Girls: 100m butterfly: 1. Aditi Satish Hegde (Mah) 1:04.78, 2. Jahnabi Kashyap (Asm), 3. Rithika Mahesh (Kar); **100m backstroke:** 1. Deeksha Sivakumar (TN) 1:07.91, 2. Pratishtha B Dangi (Mah), 3. Sri Nithya Sagi (TS); **400m freestyle:** 1. Vritti Agarwal (TS) 4:32.77, 2. Meenakshi Menon (Kar), 3. Aditi Satish Hegde (Mah); **4x100m freestyle:** 1. Maharashtra 4:08.61, 2. TN 4:12.34.
Cycling: Boys: Individual road race: 1. N. Kishore (TN) 02:04:02.980s; 2. Mijaan Abbas (Guj); 3. S. Nithin (TN); **Girls: Time trial:** 1. Nanda Chichakhandi (Kar) 00:31:25.350s; 2. Alanis Lilly Cubeleo (Ker); 3. Anupama Guled (Kar).
Weightlifting: Boys: 89kg: 1. V. Ramu (AP) 292kg, 2. Sanidhya Sanjay More (Mah), 3. J. Dheershan (TN). **Girls: 59kg:** 1. B. Harika (AP) 166, 2. L. Rassia (TN), 3. Tulasi Sanu (Odi); **64kg:** 1. Ankita (Raj) 174; 2. C. Harshika (Pon); 3. Barsha Bor (WB).

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m.
PKL: ar Sports 2 & Hotstar, 8 p.m.
LaLiga: Sports 18-1) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)
Serie A: Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 1.15 a.m. (Tuesday)

Champions Way makes the Golconda Derby Stakes all his own

HYDERABAD: Trainer Satish Narredu's colt Champions Way, ridden by Suraj Narredu, won the HPSL Golconda Derby Stakes (Gr. 1), the stellar attraction of Sunday's (Jan. 28) races. The winner is owned by Mr. Teja Gollapudi & M/s. Blazing Saddles (PF).
Suraj, who rode very confidently, decided to have a start-to-finish essay for Champions Way over the 2,400m trip, and made every post a winning one to claim this prestigious event with a comfortable margin.

1. ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB CUP (DIV. II): CANNON ROSE (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Lady Jane (Nakhat Singh) 2, Oliver's Mount (Mukesh Kumar) 3 and Anemoi (Santosh Raj) 4. 1, 3-1/2 and 5-3/4. 1m, 7.53s. ₹27 (w), 10, 19 and 13 (p). SHP: 78, THP: 34, SHW: 20 and 35, FP: 297, Q: 200, Tanala: 776. Favourite: Gun For Gold. Owner: Mr. S. Prasad Raju. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

2. ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB CUP (DIV. I) : KALKI (P. Trevor) 1, Diablo (Suraj Narredu) 2, Bellingham (Yash Narredu) 3 and Torchbearer (Antony Raj) 4. 3-1/2, 3-1/2 and Neck. 1m, 5.60s. ₹66 (w), 16, 11 and 12 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 31, SHW: 31 and 12, FP: 247, Q: 73, Tanala: 426. Favourite: Diablo. Owners: Mrs. Anasuya Gupta, Mr. Bal Krishan Agarwal, Mr. Bharath Singh & Mr. Shantanu Sharma. Trainer: Bharath Singh.

Rewarding success: HRC chairman R. Surender Reddy, second from right, and HPSL's chairman and MD Suresh Paladugu, second from left, with Champions Way owner Teja Gollapudi, right, trainer S. Narredu, left, and jockey Suraj Narredu. G. RAMAKRISHNA

3. BANGALORE TURF CLUB CUP: HURRICANE BAY (S. Saqlain) 1, Final Judgement (Vivek G) 2, Ampere's Touch (Neeraj) 3 and Antidote (Kaviraj) 4. 2, 3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m, 26.12s. ₹52 (w), 18, 11 and 36 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 116, SHW: 21 and 18, FP: 199, Q: 62, Tanala: 2,248. Favourite: Final Judgement. Owner: Mr. Syed Mohiuddin Mufeed. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

4. MYSORE RACE CLUB CUP: COMING HOME (Vivek G) 1, Samrat (Shivansh) 2, Ambitious Star (Md. Ekram Alam) 3 and Exponent (R.S. Jodha) 4. Not run: Lights On. 2, Neck and 2. 1m, 12.22s. ₹42 (w), 16, 12 and 19 (p). SHP: 29, THP: 59, SHW: 32 and 10, FP: 122, Q: 50, Tanala: 508. Favourite: Samrat. Owner: Mr. Rajeev Sharma. Trainer: Magan Singh.

5. MADRAS RACE CLUB CUP: BLAZING GUN (Vivek G) 1, Only My Way (Afroz Khan) 2, First Class (G. Naresh) 3 and Sacred Bond (S. Saqlain) 4. 1, 3 and 1/2. 1m, 38.43s. ₹58 (w), 14, 42 and 78 (p). SHP: 104, THP: 450, SHW: 31 and 85, FP: 1,456, Q: 958, Tanala: 43,077. Favourite: Sacred Bond. Owners: Col. M.P. Singh & Mr. K. Ram Gopal Rao. Trainer: Magan Singh.

6. ROYAL WESTERN INDIA TURF CLUB CUP (DIV. I): MAVERICK (Kuldeep Singh (Sr)) 1, Miss Maya (P. Trevor) 2, Dali's Destiny (Ajay Kumar) 3 and Dyanoosh (Kuldeep Singh (Jr)) 4. Not run: Adbhut. Neck, 3-3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m, 10.70s. ₹65 (w), 17, 14 and 17 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 49, SHW: 27 and 17, FP: 296, Q: 96, Tanala: 1,239. Favourite: Leather Back. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: D. Netto.

7. TURF AUTHORITIES OF INDIA CUP (DIV. I): THANKS (Mohit Singh) 1, Akido (Md. Ekram Alam) 2, Hugh Capet (Vivek G) 3 and Faith (P. Trevor) 4. 1, 1-1/2 and 2. 1m, 25.86s. ₹126 (w), 18, 16 and 14 (p). SHP: 94, THP: 54, SHW: 56 and 45, FP: 3,354, Q: 1,372, Tanala: 9,216. Favourite: Akido. Owner: Mr. Deepak Choudhary. Trainer: Jasbir Singh.

8. HPSL GOLCONDA DERBY STAKES (GR. 1): CHAMPIONS WAY (SANUS PER AQUAM-CASTLE QUEEN) (SURAJ NARREDU) 1, Truth (Pinson-Lady Be Good) (Imran Chisty) 2, Livermore (Speaking Of Which-Sherman Oaks) (S. Saqlain) 3 and High Command (Leitir Mor-Heiress) (P.S. Chouhan) 4. 2-1/2, 3/4 and 2-1/4. 2m, 29.18s. ₹32 (w), 12, 15 and 13 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 44, SHW: 11 and 37, FP: 174, Q: 122, Tanala: 379. Favourite: Livermore. Owners: Mr. Teja Gollapudi & M/s. Blazing Saddles (PF). Trainer: Satish Narredu.
NOTE: *Anab E Shahi (P. Trevor up) stopped galloping near the 1400m.*

9. DELHI RACE CLUB CUP: CROWN WITNESS (Suraj Narredu) 1, Nkalanzinzi (Imran Chisty) 2, Federer (Ashad Asbar) 3 and London Bell (Md. Ekram Alam) 4. 1-1/4, Neck and 6. 1m, 27.73s. ₹22 (w), 13, 16 and 46 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 165, SHW: 19 and 13, FP: 69, Q: 44, Tanala: 898. Favourite: Crown Witness. Owners: Mr. Teja Gollapudi & Mr. S. Prasad Raju. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.
Jackpot: (i) 70%: ₹32,031 (6 tkts.) & 30%: 1,350 (61 tkts.); (ii) 70%: 2,46,211 (5 tkts.) & 30%: 21,983 (24 tkts.).
Mini Jackpot: (i) 39,100 (10 tkts.), (ii) 15,931 (11 tkts.).
Treble: (i) 1,062 (28 tkts.), (ii) 4,333 (34 tkts.), (iii) 2,975 (42 tkts.).

Huntingdon should score in the second division of the Turf Authorities Of India Cup

HYDERABAD: Trainer L. D' Silva's ward Huntingdon, who ran second in his last start, should make amends in the Turf Authorities Of India Cup (Div. II), the chief event of Monday's races.

1 KOLLAPUR PLATE (1,400m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), 1.10 p.m.: 1. Dapper Look (1) R.S. Jodha 56, 2. Get Lucky (4) Nakhat Singh 56, 3. Golden Unicorn (7) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 56, 4. Sargent (6) G. Naresh 56, 5. Hoping Queen (8) Mohit Singh 54.5, 6. Peppi (9) P. Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 7. Rani Ruckus (5) Md. Ismail 54.5, 8. Star Forever (3) P. Sai Kumar 54.5 and 9. Vital Sign (2) Kaviraj 54.5.
1. STAR FOREVER, 2. HOPING QUEEN, 3. VITAL SIGN

2 PARGI PLATE (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 1.40: 1. N R I Superpower (6) Kaviraj 60, 2. N R I Sport (3) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 58.5, 3. Reigning Beauty (2) Mukesh Kumar 57.5, 4. Path Of Peace (5) P. Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 5. Thunderstruck (8) Ashad Asbar 54, 6. Grand Duke (4) R.S. Jodha 52.5, 7. Doe A Deer (1) Afroz Khan 52 and 8. Clare (7) G. Naresh 51.5.
1. THUNDERSTRUCK, 2. N R I SPORT, 3. PATH OF PEACE

3 CHEVELLA PLATE (1,100m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2.10: 1. Shadow Fax (4) Shivansh 60, 2. Saint Emilion (6) B.R. Kumar 58.5, 3. Deccan Daisy (1) P. Sai Kumar 57, 4. Hoping Star (9) Mohit Singh 57, 5. Silver Lining (2) Md. Ekram Alam 56.5, 6. Assured Success (10) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 56, 7. That's My Love (7) Ajay Kumar 54.5, 8. Chica Bonita (3) Kaviraj 51.5, 9. Planet Super (5) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 51.5 and 10. Exeter (8) Surya Prakash 50.5.
1. SHADOW FAX, 2. SILVER LINING, 3. DECCAN DAISY

4 TURF AUTHORITIES OF INDIA CUP (DIV. II) (1,400m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 2.45: 1. Huntingdon (4) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Strauss (3) P. Sai Kumar 56.5, 3. Lucky Zone (7) Surya Prakash 54.5, 4. Icicle (5) Ashad Asbar 54, 5. Miss Little Angel (6) B.R. Kumar 53, 6. She Can (8) Ajay Kumar 51.5, 7. Great Guns (2) Santosh Raj 51 and 8. Morior Invictus (1) G. Naresh 50.5.
1. HUNTINGDON, 2. SHE CAN, 3. STRAUSS

5 BODHAN PLATE (1,100m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 3.20: 1. City Of Bliss (8) Ajay Kumar 61.5, 2. The King N I (7) Ashad Asbar 56, 3. Thanks (2) Mohit Singh 54.5, 4. High Reward (3) R.S. Jodha 54, 5. Alexina (1) Santosh Raj 53.5, 6. Blissful (6) Nakhat Singh 53.5, 7. Briar Ridge (10) P. Sai Kumar 53.5, 8. Bangor On Dee (5) Afroz Khan 52, 9. Laurus (4) Kaviraj 52 and 10. Tripurari (9) G. Naresh 50.
1. CITY OF BLISS, 2. BANGOR ON DEE, 3. ALEXINA

6 ROYAL WESTERN INDIA TURF CLUB CUP (DIV. II) (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3.55: 1. See My Spark (6) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Proud Mary (2) Ajay Kumar 59.5, 3. Red Snaper (1) Kiran Naidu 58, 4. Ragnarok (9) B.R. Kumar 56.5, 5. Minecraft (8) Ashad Asbar 56, 6. Malibu (10) Md. Ekram Alam 55, 7. Magnum (3) Afroz Khan 52.5, 8. Star Medal (7) R.S. Jodha 52, 9. Wind Sprite (5) P. Sai Kumar 52, 10. Pontefract (4) Surya Prakash 51 and 11. Warwick (11) P. Ajeeth Kumar 51.
1. MINECRAFT, 2. MAGNUM, 3. RAGNAROK

7 BANSWADA PLATE (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 4.30: 1. Crimson Rose (4) Shivansh 60, 2. Midsummer Star (2) P. Sai Kumar 60, 3. Queen Empress (12) Kaviraj 59.5, 4. Classy Dame (1) Md. Ekram Alam 58, 5. Master Touch (7) Deepak Singh 57, 6. Precious (3) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 57, 7. Swiss Girl (13) B.R. Kumar 54, 8. Indian Temple (11) Kuldeep Singh (Sr) 53, 9. Pancho (10) Santosh Raj 52.5, 10. That's My Pathan (5) N.B. Kuldeep 52.5, 11. Desert Sultan (14) G. Naresh 52, 12. Stoli (6) Afroz Khan 51, 13. Taaliyah (9) Surya Prakash 51 and 14. Noble Heart (8) Nakhat Singh 50.5.
1. CRIMSON ROSE, 2. PRECIOUS, 3. QUEEN EMPRESS

8 BOGATHA WATERFALLS PLATE (1,200m), 5-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 5.05: 1. Blue Label (6) Nakhat Singh 60, 2. Canterbury (7) Md. Ekram Alam 60, 3. Fortune Art (2) Ajay Kumar 60, 4. Reining Queen (4) P. Ajeeth Kumar 60, 5. Royal Pal (8) R.S. Jodha 60, 6. Silver Arrow (5) Shivansh 60, 7. Bien Pensant (12) Surya Prakash 59.5, 8. Chenab (10) G. Naresh 59.5, 9. It's My Life (9) Kiran Naidu 59.5, 10. That's My Way (11) Afroz Khan 57.5, 11. Good Tidings (14) A.A. Vikrant 57, 12. My Way Or Highway (3) Mohit Singh 56.5, 13. Blue Brigade (13) Kuldeep Singh (Jr) 53 and 14. Protocol (1) Md. Ismail 51.5.
1. ROYAL PAL, 2. CANTERBURY, 3. REINING QUEEN
Day's Best: **HUNTINGDON**
Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.
Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5; (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8. Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3; (ii) 3, 4 & 5; (iii) 6, 7 & 8. Tanala: All races.

India finishes second best in Hockey5s Women's WC

Press Trust of India
MUSCAT

India lost 7-2 to Netherlands in the final of the FIH Hockey5s Women's World Cup here on Saturday.

Jyoti Chhatri (20th minute) and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (23rd) scored for India. Janneke van de Venne (second, 14th), Bente van der Veldt (fourth, eighth) and Lana Kalse (11th, 27th) struck a brace each for Netherlands while Sosha Benninga (13th) completed the tally.

Hockey India (HI) has announced a cash award of ₹3 lakh for each player and ₹1.5 lakh each for the support staff.

Make a strong impression

A resume needs to stand out among thousands of others and, therefore, crafting it carefully is important for students

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Biju Dharmapalan

A resume is a reflection of personality. It provides an idea about the person's quality and attitude without a physical meeting. A resume should show individuality but one mistake most candidates make is to copy the format provided by others, either from the Internet or soft skill trainers. If you expect a call from a potential employer, your resume should stand out from thousands received by the employer. We are living in a highly competitive world where no one is indispensable. If one employee leaves, hundreds are waiting to gain entry. To capture attention is not an easy task. Your chances of an employer reading your application and beginning a conversation increase dramatically with a personalised, well-crafted cover letter and resume. These are the first impressions an employer will have of you, and first impressions are everything when it comes to your resume.

CV or resume?
Both resume and curriculum vitae (CVs) are documents used in the process of applying for a job. The purpose is to present an overview of an individual's education, work experience, talents, and any other pertinent information. The terms are used interchangeably in countries like Australia and the U.S. Traditionally, a CV is a longer document; the name drawn from the Latin word curriculum vitae, which means the course of one's life. A CV can be several pages and includes a comprehensive overview of academic and professional achievements, research, publications, presentations, and other relevant details. On the other hand, a resume – from the French word resume, meaning summary – is a concise document that highlights the most relevant skills and experiences for a specific job. Single-page resumes are preferable, but 2-5 pages are fine if your work experience extends to 30 years. Fun fact: Leonardo da Vinci was the first person to write a resume in 1482.

Master CV
A "Master CV" typically refers to a comprehensive and detailed document that contains all the information about an individual's education, work experience, skills, achievements, and other relevant details. It is a comprehensive record of one's professional and academic history, and it is often used as a foundation for creating tailored resumes or CVs for specific job applications.

Structuring a resume is crucial to effectively communicate your qualifications and make a positive impression. The first style is to list the previous jobs in chronological order. Typically, duties and tasks can be listed in a bullet style, which is easy to read.

An alternative style is to use the STAR format. STAR stands for Situation, Task, Action, and Result and is an effective way to quantify your accomplishments and experiences. The advantage is that it is very specific and will help recruiters and hiring managers assess your previous position duties and achievements quickly.

Multi-media resume
A multi-media CV is a versatile and engaging method of showcasing your professional credentials, expertise, and past experiences through diverse components. This format integrates several media formats to make a lasting impression.

Record a short video introducing yourself and use it to showcase your personality, communication skills, and enthusiasm. Embed links to your professional social media profiles, such as LinkedIn or Twitter, to provide a more comprehensive view of your online presence. Although a multi-media CV can serve as an innovative method to demonstrate your abilities, it is essential to consider the established standards and preferences of the organisations.

Resume parsing by AI
Organisations are increasingly using AI during the initial phases, particularly when applying through online platforms such as LinkedIn. Employing algorithms, AI can analyse resumes by extracting information and transforming unstructured data, like text in a resume, into an organised format. It's crucial to recognise that although AI in resume screening enhances efficiency and impartiality, it presents certain challenges.

Applicants should be conscious of optimising their resumes for human and AI readers by incorporating relevant keywords and appropriately structuring information. It's important to remember that contemporary employers seek not just qualified candidates but smart individuals who are adept at efficiently and swiftly completing tasks.

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SCHOLARSHIPS

Disha Scholarship Programme
An initiative of Birlasoft to offer financial assistance to students.
Eligibility: Open to female students between 17 and 29 years domiciled in Delhi NCR or Pune, who have a 75% aggregate in Class 12 board exam or equivalent CGPA and are enrolled in the first year of General/ Professional UG courses at premier NIRF institutions or accredited universities and colleges across India. Annual family income must not exceed ₹5 lakh.
Rewards: Up to ₹ 25,000 annually
Application: Online
Deadline: February 5
www.b4s.in/edge/SSPSP1

Post-Matric Scholarship for OBC Students, Delhi
Offered by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and managed by Department of Welfare of SC/ST/OBC.
Eligibility: Open to students from the OBC category domiciled in Delhi who are studying in Class 11 or in an undergraduate course in a government-recognised institution/ college/ university in India with an attendance of at least 75% in the previous year. Annual family income should not be more than ₹2.5 lakh.
Rewards: Up to ₹10,000 annually
Application: Online
Deadline: March 31
www.b4s.in/edge/PMD2

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Scholarship for Toppers/Meritorious Award, Delhi
Offered by the Department for the Welfare of SC/ST, Government of NCT of Delhi.
Eligibility: Open to students from the SC/ ST/ OBC community who have passed Class 10 and 12 from a recognised institution in Delhi and are studying in a degree course in a state/ central university in Delhi. Applicants must have achieved top marks.
Rewards: ₹25,000
Application: Online
Deadline: March 31
www.b4s.in/edge/SAB9

Courtesy: Buddy4study.com

APU opens admissions for Master's programmes

Azim Premji University invites applications for its full-time two-year Master's programmes in Education, Development, Economics and Public Health at its Bengaluru and Bhopal campuses, beginning in July 2024.
Last date: February 9
Entrance Test: March 10
For eligibility requirements and other details, visit https://azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/study-postgraduate

INBRIEF

Ran and Monu shine as Bulls tie with Panthers

Bengaluru Bulls produced a sensational comeback to level the score in the last raid of the match and secure a 28-28 tie with Jaipur Pink Panthers in a Pro Kabaddi League Season 10 match at Patna on Sunday. Bulls' Ran Singh and Monu shone with five tackle points each. Tamil Thalaivas registered its fourth successive victory, beating U Mumba 50-34. This is Thalaivas' longest winning streak.

ICC's ban on Sri Lanka Cricket lifted with immediate effect

The ICC Board on Sunday lifted the suspension of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) with immediate effect. SLC was suspended in November for being in serious breach of its obligations as an ICC member, in particular, the requirement to manage its affairs autonomously and ensure that there is no government interference in the governance, regulation and/or administration of cricket in Sri Lanka. The ICC Board, which had been monitoring the situation since the suspension, was now satisfied that SLC is no longer in breach of membership obligations.

Indian Navy clinches Beighton Cup hockey title

Indian Navy defeated Indian Oil via penalty shootout in the final to win the title in the Coal India 125th Beighton Cup hockey tournament at the SAI astro-turf ground in Kolkata on Sunday. Both the teams were tied 2-2 after the regulation time. In the shootout, Navy beat Indian Oil 3-2.

The result (final): India Navy 2 (Sushil Dhanwar, Akib Rahim) bt Indian Oil 2 (Gurjinder Singh-2) in penalty shootout [Indian Navy 3 (Prashant, Yogesh Singh, Kuldeep) bt Indian Oil 2 (Affan Yusuf, Ankit Pal)].

Antonsen and Wang reign in BWF Indonesia Masters

Denmark's Anders Antonsen and China's Wang Zhi Yi won the men's and women' singles crowns in the Indonesia Masters, a BWF World Tour Super 500 event, in Jakarta on Sunday.

The results (finals): Men: Anders Antonsen (Den) bt Brian Yang (Can) 18-21, 21-13, 21-18. **Women:** Wang Zhi Yi (Chn) bt Nozumi Okuhara (Jpn) 21-14, 21-13.

Divyansh clinches air rifle gold with a WR score

Divyansh Singh Panwar shot a world record 253.7 in the final to clinch the air rifle gold in the World Cup in Cairo, Egypt, on Sunday. It was the fourth World Cup gold for the 21-year-old Divyansh following the ones he had won in Munich, Beijing and Delhi from 2019. The former World No.1 qualified in style by topping the field with 632.4. He beat Danilo Sollazzo of Italy by 1.9 point for the gold. The earlier world record of 253.3 for the men's final was achieved by Sheng LIhao of China in the Asian Games last year in Hangzhou.

The results: 10m air rifle: **Men**: 1. Divyansh Singh Panwar 253.7 (WR) 632.4; 2. Danilo Dennis Sollazzo (Ita) 251.8 (631.3); 3. Lazar Kovacevic (Srb) 230.6 (630.7); 6. Arjun Babuta 166.1 (630.7); 11. Rudrankksh Patil 629.3. **RPO**: Sandeep Singh 630.4; Kiran Jadhav 628.8.

Tomic wins the B.R. Adityan Memorial ITF Futures

Australia's Bernard Tomic beat Sasikumar Mukund 6-4, 7-6(3) in the final to emerge champion of the B.R. Adityan Memorial ITF Futures Men's $25k International Tennis Championship in Chennai on Sunday. Tomic earned ₹3 lakh and 25 ATP points, and Mukund ₹1.75 lakh and 16 points.

Pacers Mura Singh, Rana Datta sizzle for Tripura

Karnataka squanders a lead of 41, gets shot out for 151, as the duo shares six between them, the experience of Sudip and Ganesh should take the hosts over the line on the final day

RANJI TROPHY

Sports Bureau
AGARTALA

Karnataka's batting in the second innings came undone yet again as it was bundled out for 151 on day three of its Ranji Trophy Group-C match against Tripura at the Maharaja Bir Bikram College Stadium here on Sunday.

Karnataka secured a first-innings lead of 41 after dismissing the last of the Tripura batters, Abhijit Sarkar, for the addition of just two runs to the overnight total of 198. But the speed duo of Mura Singh (3/29) and Rana Datta (3/39) sliced through Karnataka as the away side lasted just 51.3 overs.

At stumps, the host was 59 for three in pursuit of a 193-run target, with the experienced duo of Sudip Chatterjee (26 batting) and Ganesh Satish (three batting) carrying their outfit's hopes of a famous victory.

R. Samarth, Nikin Jose and debutant K.V. Aneesh were out for single-digit scores for the second time running as Karnataka slumped to 28 for four.

Only debutant Kishan S. Bedare and wicket-keeper bat Sharath Srinivas showed the stomach for a fight. The former made 42 (59b, 8x4) while the latter made yet another important contribution by scoring 48 (99b, 6x4) to add to the 76 and 49 he came up with against Punjab and Goa respectively.

Kishan and Sharath combined for 32 runs for the sixth wicket but the former's dismissal with just 84 on the board meant Karnataka was still in a precarious position. But Sharath then partnered with V. Vyshak (22, 36b, 2x4) for a 47-run stand for seventh wicket to stabilise things.

Sharath was the last man out and it will be clear on Monday if he has done enough to carry his team home.

Breathing fire: Mura was at his menacing best against Karnataka. PRASHANT NAKWE

The scores:

Karnataka — 1st innings: 241.

Tripura — 1st innings: Bishal Ghosh lbw b Koushik 44, Bikram Kumar Das c Sharath b Koushik 4, Sridam Paul lbw b Koushik 1, Sudip Chatterjee c Sharath b Vyshak 1, Ganesh Satish c Sharath b Kaverappa 6, Wriddhiman Saha lbw b Hardik 28, Bikramjit Debnath (not out) 57, Mura Singh c Sharath b Koushik 39, Parvez Sultan c Sharath b Kaverappa 0, Rana Datta c Kishan b Vyshak 4, Abhijit Sarkar b Kaverappa 7; Extras (lb-2, w-1, nb-6): 9; Total (in 80.5 overs): 200.

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-20, 3-26, 4-37, 5-81, 6-96, 7-172, 8-174, 9-183.

Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 21.5-8-40-3, Koushik 20-7-34-4, Vyshak 19-4-64-2, Hardik 12-2-43-1, Shashikumar 8-2-17-0.

Karnataka — 2nd innings: R. Samarth c sub b Datta 0, Mayank Agarwal b Datta 17, K.V. Aneesh c sub b Mura Singh 2, Nikin Jose c sub b Mura Singh 4, Kishan S. Bedare c sub b Debnath 42, Hardik Raj c sub b Datta 10, Sharath Srinivas lbw b Sultan 48, V. Vyshak b Sarkar 22, K. Shashikumar lbw b Sultan 0, Vidwath Kaverappa b Mura Singh 5, V. Koushik (not out) 0; Extras (lb-1): 1; Total (in 51.3 overs): 151.

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-18, 3-24, 4-28, 5-52, 6-84, 7-131, 8-136, 9-151.

Tripura bowling: Mura Singh 14-3-29-3, Datta 12-1-39-3, Sarkar 12-1-36-1, Debnath 7-0-33-1, Sultan 6.3-0-13-2.

Tripura — 2nd innings: Bishal Ghosh lbw b Koushik 5, Bikram Kumar Das lbw b Kaverappa 2, Sridam Paul c Sharath b Vyshak 21, Sudip Chatterjee (batting) 26, Ganesh Satish (batting) 3; Extras (nb-2): 2; Total (for three wkts. in 24 overs): 59.

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-14, 3-50.

Karnataka bowling: Kaverappa 9-3-15-1, Koushik 7-2-21-1, Vyshak 6-2-13-1, Kishan 1-0-9-0, Shashikumar 1-0-1-0.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES, ROUND 4, DAY 3

Elite: Group-A: At New Delhi: Services 536/7 decl. in 191 overs (Shubham Rohilla 153, Anshul Gupta 43, Rajat Paliwal 44, Lovekesh Bansal 161, Arjun Sharma 101 n.o.) vs. Saurashtra 154/2 in 50.3 overs (Kevin Jivrajani 52, Vishvaraj Jadeja 53 batting).
Ahmedabad: Manipur 159 & 198 in 63 overs (Ronald Longjam 42, Langlonyamba Meitan Keishangbam 55, Arafat Khan 4/36) vs. Rajasthan 399/6 decl.
Rohtak: Haryana 195 & 211/6 in 67 overs (Nishant Sindhu 70, Ashok Menaria 59, Pradeep Dadhe 5/60) vs. Maharashtra 194.
Ranchi: Vidarbha 204 & 374/9 decl. in 112 overs (Dhruv Shorey 113, Atharva Taide 138, Akshay Wadkar 51, Shahbaz Nadeem 6/69) vs. Jharkhand 150 in 51.2 overs (Kumar Suraj 57, Anukul Roy 51, Aditya Sarwate 4/22) & 51/3 in 16 overs.
Group-B: Raipur: Andhra 431 & 150/2 decl. in 20 overs (Karan Shinde 45) vs. Chhattisgarh 262 in 88.4 overs (Sanjeet Desai 54, Amandeep Khare 54) & 20 for no loss in 6 overs.
Patna: Kerala 227 & 62/2 in 17 overs vs. Bihar 377 in 113.3 overs (Piyush Singh 51, Sakibul Gani 150, Baljeet Singh Bihari 60).
Guwahati: Bengal 405 bt Assam 103 in 34.3 overs (Denish Das 50, Saahil Jain 40, Mohammed Kaif 4/36) & 140 in 46 overs (Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal 5/43). **Points: Bengal 7 (12), Assam 0 (1).**
Mumbai: Mumbai 198 & 303/8 in 84 overs (Shivam Dube 117, Shams Mulani 63) vs. Uttar Pradesh 324.
Group-C: Agartala: Karnataka 241 & 151 in 51.3 overs (Kishan Bedare 42, Srinivas Sharath 48) vs. Tripura 200 in 80.5 overs (Bishal Ghosh 44, Bikramjit Debnath 57 n.o., Vasuki Koushik 4/34) & 59/3 in 24 overs.
Valsad: Railways 313 & 228 in 61.5 overs (Vivek Singh 53, Suraj Ahuja 53, Ravi Bishnoi 5/76) bt Gujarat 198 & 159 in 44.1 overs (Manan Hingrajia 52, Karn Sharma 4/20). **Railways 6 (12), Gujarat 0 (13).**
At Porvorim: Goa 104 & 179 lost to Punjab 190 & 96/4 in 18.3 overs (Nehal Wadhera 49 n.o.). **Punjab 6 (8), Goa 0 (4).**

Kartikeya spun MP to victory against Pondicherry.
FILE PHOTO: PERIASAMY

Coimbatore: Chandigarh 111 & 206 in 71 overs (Ankit Kaushik 50 n.o., Sai Kishore 5/80) lost to Tamil Nadu 610/4 decl. **TN 7 (15), Chandigarh 0 (3).**

Group-D: Cuttack: Odisha 138 & 425/8 decl. in 117 overs (Sandeep Pattnaik 150, Govinda Poddar 41, Biplab Samantray 46, Anurag Sarangi 70 n.o.) vs. Himachal Pradesh 176 & 33/1 in 10 overs.

Vadodara: Jammu & Kashmir 457 & 26 for no loss in 13 overs vs. Baroda 383 in 117.1 overs (Jyotsnil Singh 79, Kinit Patel 45, Shivalik Sharma 128, Mahesh Pithiya 50, Umar Nazir Mir 5/91).

Mohali: Delhi 147 & 264/9 decl. in 72.3 overs (Himmat Singh 194, Lakshay Thareja 43, Deepak Dhapola 4/61) vs. Uttarakhand 239 & 95/6 in 34 overs (Himanshu Chauhan 4/19).

Puducherry: Madhya Pradesh 238 & 289 in 77.1 overs (Venkatesh Iyer 135, Saransh Jain 48) bt Pondicherry 100 & 108 in 27 overs (Saransh Jain 4/49, Kumar Kartikeya 6/45). **MP 6 (16), Pondicherry 0 (12).**

Plate: At Anand: Mizoram 359 & 237/9 in 56 overs (Jehu Anderson 51, Agni Chopra 101, Akash Choudhary 4/52) vs. Meghalaya 281 in 97.2 overs (Raj Biswa 125 n.o., Kishan Lyngdoh 47, Mohit Jangra 4/101, K.C. Cariappa 6/66).

Rangpo: Sikkim 173 & 138 in 65 overs (Khrievitso Kense 8/46) lost to Nagaland 190 & 124/3 in 38.5 overs (Joshua Ozukum 50). **Nagaland 6 (7), Sikkim 0 (13).**

Arshin and Tiwari, the stars in India's facile win over USA

U-19 WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India
BLOEMFONTEIN

Arshin Kulkarni slammed a stroke-filled century before pacer Naman Tiwari's grabbed four wickets as India recorded a facile 201-run win over USA in its final group game of the U-19 World Cup here on Sunday.

With the win, defending champion India continued its unbeaten run in the tournament.

Leader of the group

India, who had already sealed a super six berth having won their opening two games, head to the next stage as the leader of Group- A.

Left-hand opener Arshin (108) starred with the bat with number three Musheer Khan (73) playing the perfect second fiddle as India piled on a mammoth 326 for five after being asked to bat.

Arshin's 108 was a highlight of India's win.

The bowlers, led by the left-arm pacer Tiwari (four for 20), then perfectly complemented the Indian batting unit, stopping the Americans to a paltry 125 for eight in 50 overs.

USA never looked equipped to overhaul the huge target and their chase was off to a dodgy start as Tiwari and fellow pacer Raj Limbani sizzled with the new-ball, running through the USA top-order in the first 10 overs.

Early wickets

Limbani sent back Prannav Chettipalayam in the very first over, while Tiwari cleaned up opener Bhavya Patel in the second over before getting rid of skipper Rishi Ramesh in the eighth over.

His other scalps included the determined Utkarsh Srivastava, who top-scored for USA with a 73-ball 40, and Manav Nayak.

The scores:

India 326/5 in 50 overs (Arshin Kulkarni 108, Musheer Khan 73) bt USA 125/8 in 50 overs (Utkarsh Srivastava 40; Naman Tiwari 4/20).

A day to remember for the Red and Gold brigade

SUPER CUP

Amitabha Das Sharma
BHUBANESWAR

Intense battle: Cleiton, foreground, sealed it for East Bengal in injury time. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Cleiton Silva sparked celebrations with a fantastic finish as he helped East Bengal prevail over holder Odisha FC 3-2 in extra-time and win its maiden Super Cup crown. The final here on Sunday witnessed an exciting contest as the two teams were locked 2-2 at the end of regulation time. The intense contest saw two red card expulsions, one for each side.

East Bengal skipper Cleiton scored the decider in the 111th minute, bringing the Red and Gold brigade's 12-year wait for a National club title.

Though the Kolkata side made a strong start, it missed numerous opportunities. Odisha forward Diego Mauricio, with his 39th-minute strike, helped the host enjoy a 1-0 lead at half-time. East Bengal coach Carles Cuadrat made two changes after the break by introducing two India players – Naorem Mahesh Singh and Chnungunga. The ploy worked as Naorem set up a defence-splitting pass to release Nandhakumar Sekar in the 52nd minute. The East Bengal winger ran deep and dribbled past the Odisha goalkeeper Mawia Ralte to slot home. East Bengal went ahead in the 60th through a penalty converted by Saul Crespo.

Odisha was down to 10 when Mourtada Fall was ejected for a foul on Borja Herrera. A penalty in the last minute of injury-time brought the host back into the match as Ahmed Jahouh scored with a *panenka* kick to make it 2-2. East Bengal was reduced to 10 when Souvik Chakrabarti received a second booking. But Cleiton settled it in his team's favour.

The result (final): East Bengal 3 (Nandhakumar 52, Saul Crespo 61-pen, Cleiton 111) bt Odisha FC 2 (Mauricio 39, Jahouh 97-pen).

Lebrun rallies to outsmart Calderano; Cheng bags women's title

WTT CONTENDER

Jonathan Selvaraj
MAPUSA

Down two games and a game-point in the third against World No. 7 Hugo Calderano, 17-year-old Felix Lebrun revealed that he thought his chances in the men's singles final of the WTT Star Contender at the Peddem Indoor stadium were "slim". That's when he says he decided to take a chance and switch his serve from the forehand to the backhand side.

"I knew that if I went three games down, it wouldn't be impossible to win but it very hard. I'd been serving mostly with my forehand but I thought let me try something different," he says.

It's a switch that couldn't have worked any better. Lebrun saved game-point, then went on to set one up of his own, win it and then win the next three games to beat the World no. 7 from Brazil 9-11, 9-11, 13-11, 11-0, 15-13, 11-7 and claim his first ever WTT Super Contender title.

"It's an unbelievable feeling. I was not playing well in the first couple of games. I was being pushed back from the table in those two games. I decided I needed to get closer to the table and I was able to do that. It will give me a lot of confidence going into the World Team Championships (in February)," Lebrun said

Lebrun and Cheng... men's and women's singles champions. PTI

Calderano was left ruing his chances. "I had a chance to win the third game and I also had a chance to win the fifth game. If I had taken those two chances I could have done better," he says. While he says he could have done more, Calderano gave credit to his opponent – who is being seen as one of the most promising players of his generation. "Felix is an incredible talent. He's only going to get better," Calderano said.

That's what Lebrun believes as well – a prospect that should worry opponents in the years to come. "I made a lot of mistakes in the match. In the fifth game, I made two service errors too. If you make two service errors in a game you will mostly lose. I have everything to improve. My service, my forehand and my backhand," he said.

The results (finals):

Men's singles: Felix Lebrun (Fra) bt Hugo Calderano (Bra) 9-11, 9-11, 13-11, 11-0, 15-13, 11-7.

Women's singles: Cheng I-Ching (Tpe) bt Nina Mittelham (Ger) 11-8, 11-8, 17-15, 11-6.

Mixed doubles: Jeon Jihee & Shin Yubin (Kor) bt Alvaro Robles & Maria Xiao (Esp) 11-2, 12-10, 13-11.